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CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STUTES, Edgmon

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center in Seward, and further efforts to carry out the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the maritime industry in the state includes seafood harvesting, seafood processing, vessel construction and repair, research, resource enhancement and management, marine transportation and freight, and other activities or services; and

WHEREAS those services and activities have only recently become widely recognized as making up a discrete maritime industry; and

WHEREAS the maritime industry in the state consists of more than 500 businesses and a workforce of 68,000 persons, making the industry the largest private sector employer in the state; and

WHEREAS significant economic benefits resulting directly from activity in the maritime industry include, for example, the addition of \$6,750,000,000 to the state's economy

1 in 2011; and

2 **WHEREAS** significant economic benefits resulting indirectly from activity in the
3 maritime industry include, for example, the addition of \$1,000,000,000 to the state's economy
4 in 2011 from transportation spending related to the maritime industry; and

5 **WHEREAS** approximately 50 percent of persons employed in the state's maritime
6 industry are residents of the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** the number of maritime industry jobs in the state that require a high level
8 of technical and professional skill is increasing; and

9 **WHEREAS** the maritime industry in the state seeks to increase the number of state
10 residents who have the technical skills, professional skills, and motivation to succeed in the
11 maritime industry; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory
13 Committee was established to work with employers, state agencies, the University of Alaska,
14 and other regional and local providers of vocational education and technical training to
15 implement the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in order to succeed, the plan requires that the maritime industry,
17 educators, state government, and regional and local providers of vocational education and
18 technical training collaborate to increase the number of state residents who have the technical
19 skills, professional skills, and motivation to succeed in the maritime industry; and

20 **WHEREAS** the plan seeks to increase career awareness, workforce recruitment and
21 retention, and training in job readiness and core competencies; and

22 **WHEREAS** the plan seeks to increase professional development in emerging and
23 high-demand occupational categories, including 23 categories the plan specifically identifies;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS** the best way to carry out the plan is for the industry to lead a
26 collaboration with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of
27 Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
28 Development, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Transportation and
29 Public Facilities, the University of Alaska, regional and local providers of vocational
30 education and technical training, Community Development Quota organizations, tribal and
31 local governments, and public and private schools; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is assigned the task of advising
2 the state regarding plans to train and prepare Alaskans for jobs in the state in order to promote
3 growth in the state's economy; and

4 **WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is to build connections
5 that place Alaskans in good jobs, and that goal keeps the board focused on developing a
6 workforce system that is useful, accessible, and understandable to businesses seeking
7 qualified workers, unemployed Alaskans searching for jobs, and employees seeking to
8 upgrade their work skills to meet demands and opportunities in a changing workplace; and

9 **WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is to increase resident
10 hire to 75 percent of total hires in the maritime industry by 2020; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Training Center is approved by the United States
12 Coast Guard to offer both standard training and training tailored to the specific needs of the
13 maritime industry; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Training Center delivers training in modern
15 classrooms and with the latest training tools and technology, including a world-class ship
16 simulator and a state-of-the-art, computer-based navigational laboratory; and

17 **WHEREAS** Alaska has more coastline than the other 49 United States combined; and

18 **WHEREAS** the marine environment of the state is one of the world's most
19 challenging for the maritime industry; and

20 **WHEREAS** qualified marine captains and other qualified marine crewmembers are
21 needed to ensure the safe transport of passengers and freight and the safety of commercial
22 fishing operations in the state's navigable waters; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center, which is housed in
24 the joint Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center and United States Coast Guard
25 training facility in Seward, Alaska, is the foundation of maritime industry workforce delivery
26 in the state; and

27 **WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Maritime Training Center is to promote the safe
28 transport of passengers and freight and safe commercial fishing operations in the state's
29 navigable waters by training marine captains and other marine crewmembers for employment
30 in the maritime industry workforce in the state; and

31 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature in Legislative Resolve 36, Twenty-Seventh

1 Alaska State Legislature, identified maritime workforce development as a priority;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska Maritime
3 Workforce Development Plan, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, and the Alaska
4 Vocational Technical Education Center, and calls for further collaboration between the
5 maritime industry, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of
6 Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
7 Development, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Transportation and
8 Public Facilities, the University of Alaska, regional and local providers of vocational
9 education and technical training, Community Development Quota organizations, tribal and
10 local governments, public and private schools, and other stakeholders to implement the plan;
11 and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall appoint a member of
13 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the
14 House of Representatives, to liaison with the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development
15 Industry Advisory Committee to ensure that members of the legislature are kept informed
16 regarding implementation of the plan; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
18 governor to direct the commissioner of education and early development, the commissioner of
19 commerce, community, and economic development, the commissioner of fish and game, the
20 commissioner of labor and workforce development, the commissioner of transportation and
21 public facilities, and the president of the University of Alaska to collaborate with the Alaska
22 Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee regarding implementation
23 of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan and, by January 30, 2016, deliver a
24 report regarding that collaboration and plans for further collaboration to the Senate Secretary
25 and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and notify the legislature that the report
26 is available.