



# Alaska State Legislature

1966

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Source:

HJR 75

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Protesting the discrimination against the State of Alaska ferries by the U. S. Bureau of Customs.

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

WHEREAS in May, 1962 the Commissioner of the U. S. Bureau of Customs, Department of the Treasury, issued an administrative ruling that the ferries of the State of Alaska operating between Alaska and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, were not to be classified as "ferries" under section 451 of the Tariff Act of 1930; and

WHEREAS this administrative ruling requires the State of Alaska to pay U. S. customs fees at Ketchikan for each vessel departure to Prince Rupert and for each vessel which arrives at Ketchikan from Prince Rupert and this combined with the annual tonnage tax on each vessel because they are not classified as "ferries" costs the state on the average of \$1,700 each year; and

WHEREAS in addition to this expense the Commissioner of the Bureau of U. S. Customs has also made an administrative ruling that the State of Alaska must pay overtime penalty fees

for customs inspectors at Ketchikan and inspectors who clear passengers boarding the ferries at Prince Rupert inbound to the United States from Canada, and this additional expense to the State of Alaska averages \$10,300 a year; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Government has waived assessment of the overtime penalty fee for its customs inspectors and the U. S. Government makes no overtime assessment at Haines or Skagway, Alaska, for ferry passengers who enter the United States from Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska protests the unwarranted and discriminatory assessment of fees on the ferries of the State of Alaska and respectfully requests the President of the United States to direct the Department of the Treasury to withdraw its unwarranted administrative rulings which cost the State of Alaska \$12,000 each year in additional operating expenses.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Henry H. Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Lester D. Johnson, Acting Commissioner, U. S. Bureau of Customs; and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.