



Alaska State Legislature

1969

Source:

HCR 21

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Relating to a study of the possible solutions to the problem of preserving and retaining Alaska artifacts in the state.

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

WHEREAS Article VIII, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution, empowers the Legislature to provide for the acquisition of objects of historic, cultural, recreational or scientific value, to reserve these objects from the public domain and to provide for their administration and preservation for the use, enjoyment and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS many of the artifacts of Alaska's historic past have been plundered, destroyed, damaged or lost, particularly in Southeast Alaska, and this unfortunate state of affairs continues; and

WHEREAS the present state law covering artifacts located on state owned or controlled lands is painfully inadequate because by far the greatest proportion of the land in Alaska is federally owned, thus depriving the state of jurisdiction over its artifacts; and

WHEREAS enforcement of the Federal Antiquities Act, which would protect these artifacts, is found to be almost nonexistent; and

WHEREAS even strict enforcement of the federal law would not prevent certain qualified institutions from removing these objects under permit of the Secretary of the Interior, Agriculture, or Army, depending on departmental jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the state has an overriding interest in the preservation of historical objects for the cultural benefit of its people; and

WHEREAS this area of control over preservation and acquisition of artifacts is one fraught with controversy and jurisdictional conflict; and

WHEREAS research, development and implementation of new and innovative legislation and programs to protect the integrity of Alaska's historical artifacts must be begun immediately for the protection of the state's treasure-filled past;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Council is requested to direct a study, the goal of which is to present a conceptual plan and innovative legislation for the protection and preservation of Alaska's antiquities, and to report its findings to the Second Session of the Sixth Legislature.