



Alaska State Legislature

1969

Source:

HJR 53

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Urging the passage of S. 413, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with and furnish assistance to states, local governments and others in establishing a system for prevention and control of fires in rural areas.

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

WHEREAS in 1967, by sampling 24 states, the National Fire Prevention Association determined that Alaska had the greatest number of deaths by fire per million population, 79, and the second largest amount per person fire loss, \$13.42, which is \$6.40 above the sampling average; and

WHEREAS the average number of fire fatalities per 100,000 population over a five-year period in Alaska shows that the native population suffered almost three times the fatalities of the nonnative population; and

WHEREAS a substantial proportion of the fires in Alaska occurred in rural areas or in towns and villages of under 5,500 population where most of the native population resides and there are few, if any, fire prevention programs and there is very little firefighting equipment; and

WHEREAS S. 413 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with and furnish financial and other assistance to states, public bodies and organizations in establishing a system for the prevention, control and suppression of fires in rural areas and in towns of under 5,500 population; and

WHEREAS the program set forth in the bill would be a great benefit to the people of this state and would serve to drastically reduce the tragic loss of human life and property by fire;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Legislature of the State of Alaska supports S. 413 and respectfully urges that Congress pass it.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard B. Russell, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House; the Honorable Allen J. Ellender, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee; the Honorable W. R. Poage, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.