



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

HJR 77

HOUSE

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting the Department of Education to institute an environmental education plan for the state and to establish the position of conservation and environmental education consultant in the department.

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

WHEREAS, although Art. VIII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska declares that, "The Legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State . . . for the maximum benefit of its people", the state does not now provide any formal means of educating its people regarding the wise use or conservation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS Alaska's rich store of natural resources provides the constant flow of raw materials that we as a people are socially and economically dependent on, as well as providing over half the jobs in the state through the fishing, lumber, recreation and oil and mining industries; and

WHEREAS, in order to manage these resources properly now and for future generations, the state must have an informed citizenry who can properly assess the value of natural resources in relation to their lives and who can make rational choices by voting for and supporting proper resource legislation, making proper use of land as recreationists or land managers and being aware of the important implications of land management problem decisions; and

WHEREAS an informed citizenry can only become a reality through education, thus, making it imperative to develop in people the ability to think critically and intelligently about the relationship of man to his environment and to cope rationally with the problems of environmental management which will become their legacy; and

WHEREAS there is an increased interest on the part of Alaska teachers and education administrators concerning the implementation and utilization of the outdoors as an effective learning environment and in the establishment of an integrated conservation curriculum for use in the traditional classroom environment; and

WHEREAS conservation and outdoor education programs, in many instances, are now being developed without any, or a bare minimum of, guidance and standards, resulting in poor quality courses which impart incomplete conceptual knowledge concerning our natural environment and its preservation; and

WHEREAS it is of utmost importance that an environmental education plan with guidelines be developed for and established in, the state; and

WHEREAS a full-time conservation and environmental education consultant is needed immediately on the staff of the Department of Education to provide guidance, coordination and training for public school educators and administrators in the implementation of a quality conservation and environmental educational program to be integrated into the total curriculum;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to develop and institute a plan with guidelines for conservation and environmental education including provisions for, but not limited to, the following: integration of environmental concepts into the curriculum at all educational levels, funding local outdoor education projects, planning outdoor environmental education areas, establishment of summer student programs and vocational education programs, establishment of teacher workshops and field training through universities, establishment of University of Alaska and community college courses in environmental education, development of classroom materials and aids relating directly to Alaska, and cooperation with federal and state resource agencies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to establish the position of conservation and environmental education consultant in the department.