

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1977

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Legislative  
Resolve No.

59



Relating to travel on state ferries by official Alaska school activity and Alaska recreational groups.

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

WHEREAS during the course of the school year many school activities necessitate the transporting of school officials and students to other towns; and

WHEREAS, because of rising costs and cutbacks in many school budgets, it is extremely difficult for a school to afford to engage in worthwhile extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, if the people of Alaska could lessen the financial burden for schools engaged in official and sanctioned activities, they would provide a noble and worthwhile service; and

WHEREAS those students who are able to engage in extracurricular activities and who are able to visit other Alaskan communities receive educational benefits of value just as great as those emanating from traditional academic pursuits; and

WHEREAS during the course of the winter many recreational groups engage in intercommunity activities; and

WHEREAS because of small budgets and high costs many such groups find the cost of transportation a heavy burden; and

WHEREAS a group rate on the state ferries would benefit the people of the state who belong to such groups, the groups themselves, and the communities they visit; and

WHEREAS it is not unusual for other states and local political entities to grant certain special benefits and gratuities to selected classes of people; and

WHEREAS, during the off-season fall, winter and spring months, the state ferries frequently operate at less than full capacity; therefore, if official school groups and recreational groups were permitted to travel without cost, or at reduced cost, respectively, the foot-passenger traffic would swell as well as revenue at no significant increase in cost because the vessels of the Alaska Marine Highway operate at a relatively high fixed cost whether "on line" or not;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Division of Marine Transportation to initiate a program whereby official Alaska school activity groups may travel on state ferries for no fare and Alaska recreational groups may travel on state ferries for reduced fares, provided that travel shall be on a space-available basis only and between two Alaskan points of embarkation from the month of November through the following month of April.