

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1983

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCSHCR 2(SA)

17



Relating to travel by senior citizens and handicapped persons aboard vessels of the state marine highway system.

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

WHEREAS, since 1974, in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 52, the state marine highway system has provided for travel on ferries by persons 65 years of age and older on a space-available basis within Alaska without charge during the months of November to April, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, during 1980, in response to Legislative Resolve No. 2, 1980, the period of free passage for senior citizens aboard state marine highway vessels was extended to October 1 to May 15 inclusive; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, in response to Legislative Resolve No. 39, 1981, the state marine highway system has provided for travel of handicapped persons on ferries on a space-available basis within Alaska without charge from October 1 to May 15 inclusive; and

WHEREAS this service has been used by increasing numbers of handicapped persons and senior citizens permitting travel on the marine highway system at no cost while increasing the number of foot passengers on vessels of the system; and

WHEREAS the policy of free passage for handicapped persons and senior citizens allows only passage without cost during the "off-season", is not extended to other services for handicapped persons and senior citizens traveling aboard vessels, and in fact requires handicapped persons and senior citizens to pay full costs of lodging; and

WHEREAS many handicapped persons and senior citizens find it difficult to use vessels of the marine highway system because of

the unavailability and high cost of lodging;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the commissioner of transportation and public facilities to direct the division of marine highways to extend free passage on the Aurora, Le Conte, Chilkat, Tustumena, and Bartlett, to handicapped persons and senior citizens during every month of the year to permit them to travel between Alaska ports on a space-available basis; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor direct the division of marine highways to investigate the possibility of making state-rooms aboard state ferries available at a reduced rate to handicapped persons and senior citizens when traveling between Alaska ports.