

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

HJR 61

Legislative
Resolve No.

80



Relating to garbage dumping in the ocean.

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

WHEREAS the state and its citizens depend on the fish, marine mammals, and other living resources of the ocean for their economy and welfare; and

WHEREAS the dumping of garbage in the ocean, even beyond state territorial waters, affects the condition of the ocean's living resources and, in turn, affects the economy, health, and welfare of the state; and

WHEREAS garbage has been found in fishing nets, which results in a loss to fishermen, and garbage has been responsible for the death of a significant number of important fisheries species, sea birds, marine mammals, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS the United States is a party to the MARPOL convention, which is an international agreement to prevent the pollution of the ocean by the dumping of garbage from ships; and

WHEREAS the United States Congress has recently enacted legislation to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 - 1911) to combat garbage pollution of the ocean, including the growing problem of the disposal of plastics in the ocean, and this legislation implements certain provisions of the MARPOL convention; and

WHEREAS the MARPOL convention requires the United States to ensure that its ports and terminals provide facilities for the reception of garbage from ships and other vessels; and

WHEREAS 33 U.S.C. 1901 - 1911, as amended, requires that ports and terminals in the United States provide reception

facilities for certain pollutants and garbage from ships; and

WHEREAS every year there is a large influx of ships to the coast of Alaska to participate in the fisheries within state water and within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone; and

WHEREAS many of the ports required by federal law to accept garbage and pollutants are run by small communities that are already experiencing difficulties in disposing of their own wastes; and

WHEREAS many coastal communities in Alaska are economically distressed, unusually small, and remote, and have few resources to deal with problems of waste collection and disposal; and

WHEREAS, although the prevention of garbage dumping in the ocean is vitally important to these communities, many of them have no funds to increase their capacity for accepting additional wastes, no authority to pay for these facilities, and no expertise to handle some of these wastes; and

WHEREAS the present shortfall in state revenue precludes the state from providing funds to help coastal communities to upgrade their ports to meet the standards established by federal law;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress and the federal government to help the ports in the coastal communities of the state prevent the pollution of the ocean by providing them with the financial and technical assistance necessary to handle the ship garbage and pollutant reception requirements established by the Congress.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.