

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative
Resolve No.

65



Relating to the placement of a geographically correct Alaska on national maps.

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

WHEREAS Alaska has been a state in the United States for the past 31 years and is part of the continental United States; and

WHEREAS on maps of the United States, Alaska is often placed in a box south of California and is sometimes completely left off the map; and

WHEREAS Alaska encompasses an area of 365,000,000 acres, one-fifth of the total land area of the continental United States, and is the largest state in the United States; and

WHEREAS the mismapping and nonmapping of Alaska is found even today in the pages of Newsweek, Time, the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times, as well as many other newspapers and magazines, and is even found in the art department of the graphics division of the Associated Press and in the map department of United Press International; and

WHEREAS most school geography textbooks, wall maps, and road maps still place Alaska in a box south of California; and

WHEREAS some maps of Alaska do not represent the Aleutian chain in a geographically correct manner; and

WHEREAS geographic illiteracy has become a serious concern of the American people and has been identified as a priority in educational program development; and

WHEREAS the national newspaper, USA Today, reconsidered its map policy for Alaska and now places Alaska in the northwest corner of all of its maps of the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that all major United States magazines, newspapers, textbook publishers, and map publishers, follow the lead of USA Today in placing Alaska in its correct geographical position on maps of the United States, in the northwest corner, and that all geographical attributes of Alaska be correct in size and location and either have the correct proportions or be accompanied by a scale indicating the proportions.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the editors of all major United States magazines, newspapers, textbook publishers, and map publishers.