

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

Introduced: 2/12/96

Referred: Transportation, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Providing for a contest among the elementary school students of Alaska to name
2 the new ferry of the Alaska marine highway system.

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

4 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature approved a ballot initiative to create the
5 Alaska marine highway in 1960; and

6 WHEREAS the people of the State of Alaska approved the initiative, thus creating the
7 Alaska marine highway system; and

8 WHEREAS the Alaska marine highway system began service in 1963 to meet the
9 transportation needs of the state; and

10 WHEREAS today the Alaska marine highway system employs over 860 Alaska
11 citizens from 37 different communities; and

12 WHEREAS the Alaska marine highway system directly or indirectly accounts for over
13 1,290 jobs in the state; and

14 WHEREAS the state economy realized a 590 percent return on the state's 1994
15 general fund investment in the Alaska marine highway system; and

16 WHEREAS the Alaska marine highway fleet includes eight ships serving 34 ports,

1 providing direct access to more than 100,000 Alaskans; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Alaska marine highway system provides important economic, social,
3 and cultural links between communities in Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** the maritime vessels of the Alaska marine highway system are, by law,
5 to be named after glaciers in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** researching glaciers will give elementary school students of Alaska an
7 opportunity to learn the geography of the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** the above exercise will enhance the students' understanding of the role
9 of the Alaska marine highway system in the state's interdependent transportation system; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska marine highway system will christen a new ocean-going vessel
11 in 1998;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
13 governor to direct the commissioner of transportation and public facilities to establish an
14 impartial jury to select potential names for the new vessel from among the names of glaciers
15 submitted by elementary students and forward its recommendations to the legislature; and be
16 it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the elementary
18 students of the state to submit their favorite glacier name to the Alaska Department of
19 Transportation and Public Facilities; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature will decide which of these
21 recommendations will be used to name the new Alaska marine highway system vessel.