

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35**  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST**

**Introduced: 4/18/96**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to support for the Alaska Community College system within the**  
**2 University of Alaska.**

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

**4 WHEREAS**, in 1962, the legislature created the Community College Act under  
**5 AS 14.40.560 - 14.40.640; and**

**6 WHEREAS** the legislature supported and endorsed the creation of community colleges  
**7 throughout the State of Alaska to promote vocational, academic, developmental, and**  
**8 community education programs and courses of instruction to meet community and state needs;**  
**9 and**

**10 WHEREAS** the legislature supported the University of Alaska in its 1987  
**11 consolidation of Alaska's 12 accredited community colleges on condition that the Board of**  
**12 Regents would ". . . preserve and maintain the community college mission, budget and**  
**13 identity"; and**

**14 WHEREAS** the legislature and the Board of Regents have been provided University  
**15 of Alaska reports documenting the significant and continuing decline in "the community**  
**16 college" students attending the University of Alaska since the 1987 consolidation; and**

1           **WHEREAS** the legislature and the Board of Regents have been provided University  
2 of Alaska reports showing that community college student tuition has increased significantly  
3 since the 1987 consolidation, which has had an adverse effect on participation and access to  
4 higher education for rural, vocational education, continuing adult education, and nontraditional  
5 student enrollment; and

6           **WHEREAS** the legislature is aware that the cost savings anticipated in the 1987  
7 consolidation have not occurred and the community college mission and programs have been  
8 diminished; and

9           **WHEREAS** the legislature, Governor, and University of Alaska's Board of Regents  
10 have recognized the importance of developing lifelong learning skills, work training programs,  
11 and occupational retraining; and

12           **WHEREAS** the faculty, represented by the Alaska Community Colleges' Federation  
13 of Teachers, is responsible for the delivery of community college programs of education  
14 supports maintaining the community college mission, budget, and identity, and encourages a  
15 legislative initiative to address this need;

16           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is urged to  
17 request the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to establish a Community College  
18 Committee for the purpose of developing a plan for the restoration of a statewide  
19 comprehensive community college system within the University of Alaska; and be it

20           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the plan with proposed legislation for implementation  
21 be completed and submitted to the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature at least two  
22 months before the opening of the First Session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature.