

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/26/96

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

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 overall long-range cost savings anticipated
7 in the 1987 consolidation have not occurred and the community college mission and programs
8 have been 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.