

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/6/98

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the use of prototype designs in public school construction projects.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** art. VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the state to
4 establish and maintain a system of public schools to meet the educational needs of children
5 throughout the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the crucial role that local school
7 districts serve in the state in meeting this most important constitutional responsibility; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature understands the challenges school districts
9 face to ensure Alaska's children have skilled teachers, quality curriculum, and safe schools;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** continued growth is projected in the state's school age population that will
12 increase the need for new schools and place further pressure on school district budgets; and

13 **WHEREAS** prudent stewardship of state resources requires that every effort be made
14 to get the best value for each state dollar spent; and

15 **WHEREAS** use of prototype school designs has enabled the Municipality of
16 Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna
17 Borough school districts to more quickly and economically respond to their district's need for

1 new schools and realize cost savings; and

2 **WHEREAS** the use of prototype school designs reduces future routine and major
3 maintenance cost and improves a school district's maintenance program through the use of
4 standardized building components, systems, and products; and

5 **WHEREAS** school districts experience substantially fewer problems during the first
6 school year in a prototype school, thereby reducing the school district's costs and improving
7 the teaching environment for teachers and learning environment for students; and

8 **WHEREAS** public facilities should be designed to accurately reflect the unique needs
9 of our subarctic and arctic environments, and northern design principles can help minimize
10 annual operating and maintenance costs;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages school districts to
12 use prototype school designs wherever feasible so future school classrooms can be constructed
13 quicker and funds maximized; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
15 Education to develop prototype school designs for elementary grades in consultation with
16 engineering and architecture design professionals, including their statewide and regional
17 organizations, who are familiar with the unique climatic conditions in this state as well as
18 other conditions that affect application of appropriate school designs; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
20 Education to consult with the bond reimbursement and grant review committee in developing
21 incentives for school districts to use prototype school designs in school construction funded
22 through the educational facilities maintenance and construction fund (AS 37.05.560); and be
23 it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
25 Education, in those instances where a prototype design may not be appropriate, to identify
26 components within prototype building designs that can be standardized and can be
27 incorporated into the school design; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if statutory changes are necessary to implement these
29 incentives, the Department of Education is requested to report suggested statutory changes to
30 the legislature by March 1, 1998, so the changes can be considered by the Second Regular
31 Session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Shirley J. Holloway, commissioner of
2 education, to the Alaska State Board of Education, and to the school board of each school
3 district.