

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/20/98

Referred: Rules

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 respond to their district's need for new schools while

1 realizing cost savings; and

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

5 **WHEREAS** school districts experience substantially fewer problems during the school
6 year in a prototype school, thereby reducing the school district's costs and improving the
7 learning environment for teachers and 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 more quickly 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 in consultation with engineering and
16 architecture design professionals, including their statewide and regional organizations, who are
17 familiar with the unique regional climatic conditions in this state as well as other conditions
18 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 identify components within prototype building designs that can be standardized
21 and can be incorporated into the school design in those instances where a prototype design
22 may not be appropriate; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
24 Education to consult with the bond reimbursement and grant review committee established
25 under AS 14.11.014 in developing incentives for school districts to use prototype school
26 designs in school construction funded through the educational facilities maintenance and
27 construction fund (AS 37.05.560); 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 15, 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.