

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ELTON, Croft

Introduced: 2/16/98

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging breast-feeding for the well-being of mothers and babies.

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

3 WHEREAS the medical profession in the United States recommends that children
4 from birth to the age of one year should be breast-fed unless, under particular circumstances,
5 it is medically inadvisable; and

6 WHEREAS, despite the recommendation of the medical profession, statistics reveal
7 a declining percentage of mothers who are choosing to breast-feed their babies; and

8 WHEREAS many new mothers are now choosing to use formula rather than to breast-
9 feed even before they leave the hospital, and only a small percentage of all mothers are still
10 breast-feeding when their babies are six months old; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to the benefit of improving bonding between mothers and
12 their babies, breast-feeding offers better nutrition, digestion, and immunity for babies than
13 does formula-feeding, and it may increase the intelligence quotient of a child; and

14 WHEREAS babies who are breast-fed have lower rates of death, meningitis, childhood
15 leukemia and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections,
16 diarrheal diseases, otitis media, allergies, obesity, and developmental delays; and

17 WHEREAS breast-feeding also provides significant benefits to the health of the

1 mother, including protection against breast cancer and other cancers, osteoporosis, and
2 infections of the urinary tract; and

3 **WHEREAS** the incidence of breast cancer in the United States might be reduced by
4 25 percent if every woman breast-fed all her children until they reached the age of two years;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund
7 have established as one of their major goals for the decade the encouragement of breast-
8 feeding; and

9 **WHEREAS** the social constraints of modern society weigh against the choice of
10 breast-feeding and lead new mothers with demanding time schedules to choose formula-
11 feeding to avoid embarrassment, social ostracism, or criminal prosecution; and

12 **WHEREAS** any promotion of family values should encourage public acceptance of
13 this most basic act of nurture between a mother and her baby, and a mother should not be
14 made to feel incriminated or socially ostracized for breast-feeding her child;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges businesses to actively
16 encourage women to feel comfortable about breast-feeding their babies on business premises
17 and to issue promotional materials that advertise the business positive attitude toward breast-
18 feeding; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
20 Governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to provide
21 information to the public that encourages breast-feeding of babies as a nurturing and
22 nutritional act.

23 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.