

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE KEMPLER**

**Introduced: 2/16/98**

**Referred: State Affairs, Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Creating a Citizens' Commission for a Northern Vision.**

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

**3       WHEREAS** Alaska is the only state in the United States of America with most of its  
**4** land mass located within arctic and subarctic environmental conditions; and

**5       WHEREAS** the far north physical location of the state creates unique challenges for  
**6** infrastructure and economic development; and

**7       WHEREAS** winter can last as long as nine months above the Arctic Circle and six  
**8** months in other areas of the state, with corresponding lengthy periods of darkness, cold, ice,  
**9** and snow; and

**10       WHEREAS** the short, intense seasons of warmth limit the length of the construction  
**11** season, the ability of the land to recover from damage, and the time available for most tourists  
**12** to experience the beauty of the North; and

**13       WHEREAS** other more mature northern communities have recognized that long  
**14** winters produce distinct social and cultural adaptations in order to ensure economic prosperity;  
**15** and

**16       WHEREAS** the rapid evolution of the global economy has produced an intensely  
**17** competitive marketplace in which Alaska is positioned to profit from the state's unique

1 circumstances; and

2       **WHEREAS** the state's future prosperity depends on its citizens, many of whom have  
3 moved to the state from the Lower 48 and other more temperate parts of the world, learning  
4 the constraints and opportunities of our unique northern land; and

5       **WHEREAS** there is a need for the state to develop a more cohesive regional identity  
6 in the design of its communities and the minds of its people, and to clarify its special sense  
7 of place in the minds of the international public; and

8       **WHEREAS** the state would benefit from building this northern identity from the  
9 grassroots, involving the people of Alaska to the maximum extent possible; and

10       **WHEREAS** the development of a northern strategic plan would be in the best interests  
11 of the state and provide guidance to public agencies as they construct multiyear action plans  
12 to address common needs;

13       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes in the legislative  
14 branch the Citizens' Commission for a Northern Vision in order to develop and recommend  
15 to the Governor, the legislature, and the people of Alaska a northern strategic statewide plan;  
16 the commission shall include individuals who reflect a wide range of viewpoints, who have  
17 indicated a strong dedication to the public interest, and who represent different physical,  
18 social, and economic areas of the state; and be it

19       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall consist of the following voting  
20 members:

21               (1) nine members of the public, not to include members of the legislative,  
22 executive, or judicial branches; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of  
23 the Senate, and the Governor shall each appoint three of these members;

24               (2) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
25 of the House; one member shall be a member of the majority and one a member of the  
26 minority;

27               (3) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; one  
28 member shall be a member of the majority and one a member of the minority; and

29               (4) two members of the executive branch appointed by the Governor; and be  
30 it

31       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall select a chair and vice-chair from

1 among its members, shall meet as frequently as the commission determines necessary, may  
2 meet during the interim and during legislative sessions, and may meet and vote by  
3 teleconference; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the commission shall serve without  
5 compensation but are entitled to travel expenses and per diem as authorized for boards and  
6 commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature directs the Legislative Budget and Audit  
8 Committee to provide administrative and other assistance to the commission, and the  
9 legislature also requests the Office of Management and Budget to provide assistance to the  
10 commission; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, subject to an appropriation for the purpose, the  
12 commission may employ up to three staff members; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the purpose of the commission is to craft a strategic  
14 plan that

15 (1) declares public policy concerning the social, economic, and cultural  
16 development of the state and identifies the objectives and actions that the state will pursue to  
17 achieve the recommendations in this strategic plan for our northern community;

18 (2) declares goals and policies for the state's development and management that  
19 guide, but do not bind, the legislature in taking action;

20 (3) informs the business community, the public, and other governmental  
21 agencies of the state's strategic goals and the relationship of those goals to policy development  
22 and management; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the strategic plan developed by the commission shall  
24 address the following general goals:

25 (1) to create a living environment of the highest possible quality, based on  
26 comprehensive planning for the population and its growth potential and addressing the  
27 ecological, economic, health, social, public safety, and physical development needs of the  
28 state;

29 (2) to encourage citizen participation in formulating policies, plans, and  
30 programs of the state at community and regional levels;

31 (3) to create and maintain conditions in which all Alaska residents have an

1 equitable opportunity to share in employment, education, health, housing, social service, and  
2 recreational resources;

3 (4) to develop a safe, convenient, and economical state transportation system  
4 that provides adequate access to all parts of the state, maximizes safety, minimizes  
5 environmental effects, and provides for alternative modal facilities;

6 (5) to encourage the development of a state economy with sufficient growth  
7 and diversity to provide a stable economic base yet maintain the integrity of critical human  
8 and environmental systems;

9 (6) to ensure that the natural environment is enhanced, maintained, and  
10 protected by establishing standards for the protection of soil, vegetation, air, sound, and sight,  
11 with appropriate surveillance and enforcement of these standards;

12 (7) to encourage the protection of life and property from natural disasters and  
13 hazards;

14 (8) to incorporate advances in telecommunications technologies to ensure that  
15 universal access to the information highway is available to all parts of the state;

16 (9) to encourage access to safe, decent, affordable housing, providing safe and  
17 structurally sound housing resources;

18 (10) to provide a wide range of cultural and recreational opportunities to all  
19 communities and regions of the state;

20 (11) to provide a full choice of educational opportunities to all segments of the  
21 state, using all community and regional facilities and programs to maximum advantage; and  
22 be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the statewide strategic plan developed by the Citizens'  
24 Commission for a Northern Vision shall be results-based; the plan shall recommend a process  
25 in which benchmarks for state agency performance are created in coordination with the  
26 executive branch and linked to the annual budgetary process; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall request participation and  
28 information from

29 (1) the commissioner of each principal department in state government;

30 (2) the president of the University of Alaska;

31 (3) representatives from local governments, school boards, business, industry,

1 and nonprofit organizations; and be it

2           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall hold public hearings, encourage  
3 participation by residents of the state, and take advantage, to the greatest extent possible, of  
4 modern telecommunications technology; and be it

5           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall present an action plan to the  
6 legislature by February 1, 1999, that details its methodology for crafting a northern strategic  
7 plan; the action plan shall include a detailed work schedule for the project and identify the  
8 public participation process, supporting resources from state agencies, in-kind contributions  
9 from individual Alaskans and businesses, joint ventures with nonprofit organizations,  
10 benchmarks for progress achieved, and appropriate project management tools that illustrate the  
11 work to be accomplished; and be it

12           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall submit a preliminary report on its  
13 work to the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature by January 1, 2000, and that the  
14 commission shall submit a final report to the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature by  
15 January 1, 2001; and be it

16           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission is authorized to begin work immediately  
17 on the appointment of its full membership or on July 15, 1998, whichever date is earlier, and  
18 is terminated on the convening of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska  
19 State Legislature.