

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/23/98
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a Joint Task Force on the Census and Redistricting.

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

3 WHEREAS legislative districts in Alaska are redrawn every 10 years following the
4 decennial census conducted by the United States Bureau of the Census; and

5 WHEREAS Alaska's share of federal funding for many programs is also determined
6 by the census population numbers; and

7 WHEREAS the United States Bureau of the Census is currently preparing for Census
8 2000, in which every American is to be counted during February and April 2000; and

9 WHEREAS much of the United States Bureau of the Census' ongoing effort and
10 preparation ask for and encourage the active involvement of state, local, and American Native
11 leaders and officials; and

12 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Labor, through its research and analysis
13 division, is being encouraged to work cooperatively with the United States Bureau of the
14 Census to ensure an accurate count in Alaska and that will optimally produce useful data for
15 many purposes, including redistricting; and

16 WHEREAS it should be the goal of the legislature to help the United States Bureau
17 of the Census and the Department of Labor in the upcoming census to obtain the most

1 accurate count ever taken of Alaskans; and

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Native population living in rural villages will be the first
3 Americans counted in Census 2000 because the United States Bureau of the Census will
4 conduct an early count in February 2000 before rural villagers disperse to fish camps and
5 other springtime activities; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Bureau of the Census, the Department of Labor, and the
7 legislature should be working with Alaska Native leaders to ensure a full and accurate count
8 of the Native population is achieved; and

9 **WHEREAS** it is imperative that the legislature be informed of and involved in the
10 process of preparing for Census 2000;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes a four-member task
12 force, consisting of two members of the Senate, one each from the majority and minority
13 caucuses, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of
14 Representatives, one each from the majority and minority caucuses, appointed by the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives, to track census and redistricting issues on behalf of the
16 legislature; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Task Force on Census and Redistricting work
18 cooperatively with the United States Bureau of the Census, the Department of Labor, local
19 officials, and other entities involved in the census-taking process with the goal of obtaining
20 and reporting back to the House of Representatives and the Senate pertinent and useful
21 information that will facilitate the bodies' understanding of census data, redistricting trends,
22 and anticipated legal issues surrounding the process; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Task Force on Census and Redistricting is
24 terminated on the day the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature
25 convenes.