

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 5/6/97

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the state executive branch administration, University of Alaska
2 administration, and Alaska Court System administration to negotiate collective
3 bargaining agreements that result in a net zero cost increase.

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

5 WHEREAS the legislature has declared that it is the public policy of the state to
6 promote harmonious and cooperative relations between government and its employees; and

7 WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the state executive branch administration,
8 university administration, and court system administration to negotiate and enter into collective
9 bargaining agreements with the representatives of their employees; and

10 WHEREAS the legislature realizes that recurring revenues fall dramatically short of
11 recurring expenditures in the long term; and

12 WHEREAS the legislature is completing the second year of a five-year financial plan
13 in an effort to close the fiscal gap between revenues and expenditures; and

14 WHEREAS the legislature finds it is irresponsible to increase the cost of personal
15 services in a time of deficit spending; and

16 WHEREAS the United States Department of Labor in 1993 reported that Alaska

1 public sector wages are 144 percent higher than the national average; and

2 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Commerce in 1993 reported that average
3 Alaska state and local government salaries are 30.7 percent above the private sector; and

4 **WHEREAS** the state Department of Administration reported in 1994 that state
5 employees are adequately compensated and may be ahead of the market for most job
6 classifications; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Long Range Financial Planning Commission recommended the
8 enactment of a tier III retirement system, the revision of geographic differentials, collective
9 bargaining agreements based on market conditions, and an examination of publicly funded
10 health plans to reduce personal services costs to the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the legislature has appropriated funds to conduct an independent, objective
12 study comparing state employees' pay and benefits with comparable private industry
13 employees' pay and benefits; and

14 **WHEREAS** this salary and benefit study will further aid the state in responsible
15 negotiations by providing a comparison on which to base future costs of personal services;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the current state executive
17 branch administration, university administration, and Alaska Court System administration to
18 negotiate collective bargaining agreements that result in a net zero cost increase through
19 reducing salaries, reducing benefits to pay increased salaries, implementing a two-tier salary
20 structure, restructuring publicly funded health plans, or other methods; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature will disapprove the
22 monetary terms of any collective bargaining agreement that results in an increased cost of
23 personal services; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the current state
25 executive branch administration, university administration, and Alaska Court System
26 administration to negotiate future collective bargaining agreements that result in a net zero cost
27 to the state.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor,
29 State of Alaska; the Honorable Mark Boyer, Commissioner, Department of Administration;
30 Jerome Komisar, President, University of Alaska; and Stephanie J. Cole, Administrative
31 Director, Alaska Court System.