

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

Source

HCS CSSJR 8(MLV) am H

Legislative
Resolve No.

8



Relating to supporting polling places at military installations.

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

WHEREAS the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a directive that disrupted the traditional authority of military base and post commanders in Alaska to allow local election officials to set up voting booths at military installations; and

WHEREAS this action makes it more difficult for thousands of military personnel and their families to vote; and

WHEREAS recent election history has shown that every vote is important in deciding an election; and

WHEREAS Alaska has a long tradition of voting at military installations that could end as a result of the DoD directive; and

WHEREAS Alaska has four polling places that could be made unavailable for future elections by the DoD directive, including polling places at Ft. Richardson, Ft. Wainwright, Elmendorf Air Force Base, and Eielson Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives responded to the negative effects the DoD directive would have on Americans in uniform and their families by passing H.R. 5174 on October 12, 2000, to ensure the voting rights of Americans who live on military bases and posts; and

WHEREAS H.R. 5174 allows the Secretary of a military department to make any building at a military installation under the Secretary's jurisdiction available for use as a polling place in any federal, state, or local election; and

WHEREAS once that site is made available for an election, H.R. 5174 provides it will remain available for subsequent elections, unless the Secretary notifies the Congress in advance of the reasons the building will no longer be used in that capacity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Secretary of Defense to work together to countermand any directive that impedes the rights of American citizens to vote at election sites at military installations.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Lieutenant General Norton A. Schwartz, Commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Air Force; Admiral Dennis C. Blair, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Navy; Major General James J. Lovelace, Jr., Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.