

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/1/01
Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing a Health Care Cost Review Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the state is experiencing rapidly increasing costs for Medicaid and other
4 publicly funded health care; and

5 **WHEREAS** the state's provision of health care to certain groups of Alaskans is
6 required for the state's continued participation in federal programs; and

7 **WHEREAS** a complete review of the costs of providing state-funded health care to
8 Alaskans is necessary in order to contain or reduce the cost to the state in an era when state
9 revenues are increasing less rapidly than are health care costs; and

10 **WHEREAS**, after reviewing applicable statutes, practices of the health care industry,
11 practices of other health care payors, and the projected health care needs of those groups of
12 Alaskans who currently receive publicly funded health care services, legislation may be
13 necessary to implement long-range methods to contain or reduce the cost of publicly funded
14 health care services;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that a Health Care Cost Review
16 Task Force is established to study state statutes, federal statutes, practices of public and

1 private health care providers, pharmacies, and private health insurers, and to determine ways
2 of containing or reducing the cost of providing publicly funded health care in Alaska; and be
3 it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall first study and recommend
5 immediate measures necessary to contain or reduce publicly funded health care costs in fiscal
6 year 2002; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall also study and recommend any
8 changes to the state and federal statutes appropriate and necessary to contain or reduce
9 publicly funded health care costs in the long term; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the task force shall consist of 11
11 regular members as follows: three members of the senate, appointed by the president of the
12 senate; three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
13 of representatives; one member representing the executive branch, appointed by the governor;
14 and four members of the public who shall be selected to represent major industries in the
15 state, appointed by the president of the senate with the advice and consent of the speaker of
16 the house of representatives; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall select a chair from among its
18 regular members and that the chair may appoint ad hoc members to the task force that
19 represent affected groups, such as health care providers, third-party payors, recipients of
20 publicly funded health care, persons with expertise relating to specific aspects of health care
21 costs, and other persons; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the terms of the regular members of the task force shall
23 begin immediately, that the task force may meet between sessions of the legislature, and that
24 the task force terminates on January 31, 2002; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet as often as considered
26 necessary by the chair of the task force, that the task force may employ staff and expert
27 consultants as necessary, and that the members of the task force, including ad hoc members,
28 are entitled to reimbursement of travel costs associated with attending meetings of the task
29 force or a subcommittee of the task force; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
31 proposed legislation to the governor and the legislature by January 31, 2002, and may make

1 any interim reports it considers advisable.