

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS KELLY, Phillips, Donley, Leman

Introduced: 2/19/02

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to urging the Governor to institute a hiring freeze on state government.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the state is facing a budget shortfall of \$873,000,000 for fiscal year 2002,
4 and the proposed fiscal year 2003 budget has an estimated \$1,200,000,000 shortfall; and

5 **WHEREAS** the balance of the constitutional budget reserve fund used to fill this
6 budget shortfall is expected to be exhausted by July 2004 if the proposed fiscal year 2003
7 budget is fully funded; and

8 **WHEREAS** the proposed fiscal year 2003 budget contains an increase of 858 full-
9 time positions from the current fiscal year, at a cost of \$115,000,000; and

10 **WHEREAS** reduced spending for state operations will likely be necessary in dealing
11 with the budget shortfall; and

12 **WHEREAS** the decision to avoid hiring state employees rather than resorting to
13 layoffs is fairer to current employees; and

14 **WHEREAS** reducing the number of state positions through the process of attrition
15 allows for both immediate and long-term savings in personnel costs;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the

- 1 Governor to institute an immediate hiring freeze for all positions funded with general funds
- 2 except those temporary positions needed to respond to emergencies or needed for reasons
- 3 involving healthy and safety.