

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/24/01

Referred: Health Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to supporting the Great Alaska Shootout, the Top of the World Classic, and**
2 **similar preseason basketball tournaments, and requesting that the National Collegiate**
3 **Athletic Association reject legislative proposal No. 2000-106.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska and many of its institutions participate in interstate
6 organizations and enter into many interstate agreements for the benefit of Alaska residents
7 and the residents of other states; and

8 **WHEREAS** one of these interstate organizations is the National Collegiate Athletic
9 Association (NCAA); and

10 **WHEREAS** the University of Alaska Anchorage's Great Alaska Shootout basketball
11 tournament and the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Top of the World Classic basketball
12 tournament are two of the premier early or preseason basketball tournaments for NCAA
13 member schools; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout began in 1978 and, throughout the past 23
15 years, has been the host to more than 4,860 male and female student athletes who have been

1 exposed to the unique culture and experience of Alaska while interacting with the people of
2 Alaska; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Top of the World Classic began in 1996 and provides students in
4 Fairbanks with the opportunity to meet student athletes from schools participating in the
5 classic and to interact with positive role models from different areas of the country and
6 different backgrounds while also exposing the student athletes to the unique culture and
7 experience of Alaska; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic provide an
9 opportunity for Alaska's Division II intercollegiate athletic teams to be exposed to and
10 compete against Division I schools while providing Alaska elementary and secondary school
11 students the opportunity to personally witness topflight intercollegiate athletic competition;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic have
14 become a tradition in their respective communities, if not in all of Alaska; create a strong
15 sense of community excitement and participation while providing a needed boost to the local
16 economies; and are integral financial contributors to the athletic programs at the University of
17 Alaska; and

18 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic, along with
19 tournaments such as the Black Coaches Association Classic, the Tip Off Classic, the Maui
20 Invitational, Coaches Against Cancer, and other tournaments conducted in Hawaii, Puerto
21 Rico, and other locales, are classified as "exempt" tournaments under current NCAA
22 regulations, which means that some of the games played at these tournaments do not count
23 towards the 28-basketball-game limit that each NCAA Division I member may schedule each
24 year; and

25 **WHEREAS**, on October 25 - 26, 2000, the NCAA Division I Management Council
26 adopted legislative proposal No. 2000-106, which would limit NCAA Division I member
27 institutions to 29 basketball games and one exhibition contest or scrimmage each year and
28 would eliminate the exemption for games played at basketball tournaments such as the Great
29 Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic, thereby eliminating an incentive for a
30 NCAA member institution to participate in these tournaments; and

31 **WHEREAS** the NCAA Division I Management Council and Board of Directors are

1 scheduled to consider legislative proposal No. 2000-106 in April 2001;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges that the NCAA Division I
3 Management Council and Board of Directors recognize the positive contribution that
4 tournaments such as the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic make to the
5 lives and experiences of the student athletes who participate in the tournaments and to the
6 communities that sponsor the tournaments; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the NCAA Division
8 I Management Council and Board of Directors to reject legislative proposal No. 2000-106;
9 and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all NCAA member
11 institutions that have participated in the Great Alaska Shootout or the Top of the World
12 Classic, their coaches, and their students to contact their conference officials and the members
13 of the NCAA Division I Management Council and Board of Directors to urge the rejection of
14 legislative proposal No. 2000-106.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to all NCAA Division I Board of Directors;
16 all members of the NCAA Division I Management Council; Cedric Dempsey, President of the
17 NCAA; Dave Schnase, National Office, NCAA; David Berst, Chief of Staff for Division I,
18 NCAA; Mark Hamilton, President of the University of Alaska; and to the Honorable Ted
19 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
20 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.