

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS LEMAN, Phillips, Wilken, Taylor, Kelly, Cowdery, Austerman, Ward, Pearce, Green, Therriault

Introduced: 1/25/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to supporting polling places at military installations and reserve component**
2 **facilities.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a directive that disrupted the
5 traditional authority of military base and post commanders to allow local election officials to
6 set up voting booths at military installations and reserve component facilities; and

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

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

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska has a long tradition of voting at military installations and reserve
12 component facilities that could end as a result of the DoD directive; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska has twelve polling places that could be made unavailable for
14 future elections by the DoD directive, including polling places at military installations and
15 reserve component facilities in Kodiak, Ketchikan, Kenai, Kotzebue, Nome, Scammon Bay,
16 and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and on Ft. Richardson, Ft. Wainwright, Elmendorf Air

1 Force Base, and Eielson Air Force Base; and

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

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

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

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
13 President of the United States and the United States Secretary of Defense to countermand any
14 directive that impedes the rights of American citizens to vote at election sites at military
15 installations and reserve component facilities.

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