

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 2/14/01

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): SENATORS LEMAN, Phillips, Wilken, Taylor, Kelly, Cowdery, Austerman, Ward, Pearce, Green, Therriault

REPRESENTATIVES Murkowski, Coghill, Masek, Foster, James, Crawford, Fate, Stevens, Wilson

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to supporting polling places at military installations.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **WHEREAS** the U.S. House of Representatives responded to the negative effects the
16 DoD directive would have on Americans in uniform and their families by passing H.R. 5174

1 on October 12, 2000, to ensure the voting rights of Americans who live on military bases and
2 posts; and

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

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

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
10 President of the United States and the United States Secretary of Defense to countermand any
11 directive that impedes the rights of American citizens to vote at election sites at military
12 installations.

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