

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOULE, Chenault, Foster, Gara, Gruenberg, Kapsner, Kerttula, Kookesh, Morgan, Seaton, Stevens, Weyhrauch, Whitaker, Anderson

Introduced: 2/3/03

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing a task force to make recommendations regarding a new design for the**
2 **official seal of the State of Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the official seal of the state was designed in 1910 by federal and
5 territorial officials long before Alaska became a state, and it emphasizes primarily the natural
6 beauty of the state and its abundance of natural resources; and

7 **WHEREAS** the seal should reflect the place and people who now call it home; and

8 **WHEREAS** the seal should ideally depict not only the diversity of its natural
9 resources but also the diversity of its human resources; and

10 **WHEREAS** the seal should include recognition of the many Native cultures of
11 Alaska, as recommended recently by the Governor's Commission on Tolerance; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in order to ensure that the official seal represents modern Alaska and its
13 diverse peoples, the seal should be redesigned through a process that involves many different
14 segments of the population, including school children; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Department of Education and Early Development administers the
16 public school system and the state's historical library, and the Alaska State Council on the

1 Arts operates within that department; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Historical Commission in the Department of Natural
3 Resources includes members who have backgrounds in history, architecture, and archeology
4 and are very familiar with both the natural and cultural heritage of the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** the mission of the Alaska Humanities Forum, which is a nonprofit
6 organization directed by a board reflective of the state's diverse cultural and geographic
7 regions, includes encouragement of Alaskans' search for a sense of identity and a sense of
8 place through history, tradition, and new ideas by stimulating community-based discussion of
9 the humanities throughout Alaska; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Native Heritage Center is a nonprofit organization that is
11 headed by a board of directors drawn from Alaska Native corporations and civic and business
12 groups who are guided by a 30-member academy composed of Native elders and tradition
13 bearers from diverse Native peoples, including Athabaskan, Yup'ik and Cup'ik Eskimo,
14 Inupiaq, Aleut, Alutiiq, Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes in the legislative
16 branch the Task Force on the State Seal whose mission is to gather input from the citizens of
17 Alaska about what the official state seal should look like and to make recommendations to the
18 legislature about a proposed new design for a new official seal for the state; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is respectfully requested to appoint to the
20 task force

21 (1) two representatives of the Department of Education and Early
22 Development; and

23 (2) two representatives of the Alaska Historical Commission in the
24 Department of Natural Resources; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature respectfully requests the board of
26 directors of the Alaska Humanities Forum to appoint two members to the task force; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature respectfully requests the board of
28 directors of the Alaska Native Heritage Center to appoint two members to the task force; and
29 be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may begin its work immediately upon
31 appointment of four of the eight members specified in this resolution, may select a chair from

1 among its members, may meet between sessions of the legislature, may solicit ideas for the
2 state seal in a manner considered appropriate by the task force, and shall report its
3 recommendations as to a proposed new official state seal to the legislature by the first day of
4 the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council shall provide reasonably
6 necessary administrative services to the task force upon request of the task force; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the task force are entitled to
8 reimbursement of travel costs associated with attending meetings of the task force; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force established under this resolution is
10 terminated on the last day of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State
11 Legislature.