

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GATTO

Introduced: 4/24/03

Referred: House Special Committee on Education, Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Joint Legislative Charter School Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans clearly believe in the value of quality education; and

4 **WHEREAS** school districts in Alaska and local school boards have implemented
5 innovations and programs that demonstrate a commitment to excellence in education,
6 including charter schools, district correspondence programs, boarding school programs,
7 quality schools/quality students, Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement, Alaska Staff
8 Development Network, Chugach School District's winning of the coveted Malcolm Baldrige
9 National Quality Award; and

10 **WHEREAS** the legislature has acted to rejuvenate Alaska public education by passing
11 legislation to implement standardized testing and other accountability measures; and

12 **WHEREAS** the legislature has provided for orderly, safe, disciplined, classroom
13 learning environments by mandating that each community establish and maintain its own
14 student behavior standards that, at a minimum, require respect and honesty; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaskans have spent \$6,152,800,833 on public K-12 education over the
16 past five years (fiscal year 1998 through fiscal year 2002), averaging \$10,083 a student in

1 fiscal year 2002; on top of this expenditure, Alaskans have spent liberally to build school
2 buildings and pay debt service; and

3 **WHEREAS** the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 makes unprecedented demands on
4 states and local school districts to raise academic achievement and to take direct action to
5 improve poorly performing schools involving increased public school choice including
6 charter schools;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Joint Legislative
8 Charter School Task Force to review Alaska statutes related to charter schools and other
9 alternative public schools regarding the establishment, organization, operation, and funding of
10 alternative schools; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

12 (1) recommending improvements or additions to the laws regulating charter
13 schools;

14 (2) researching ways to improve charter schools or how charter schools can
15 develop tools to meet requirements imposed under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of
16 2001;

17 (3) examining issues related to how charter schools meet the requirement of a
18 school term imposed under AS 14.03.030; and

19 (4) taking public comments on charter schools and on ways to improve charter
20 schools; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall be composed of eight members as
22 follows:

23 (1) four members of the legislature, of which two members shall be from the
24 senate appointed by the president of the senate and two members shall be from the house of
25 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

26 (2) one member from the Office of the Governor appointed by the Governor;

27 (3) one member appointed by the Association of Alaska School Boards;

28 (4) the chair and the secretary of the Alaska Charter School Association; and

29 be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
31 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the task force; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet during the session and during
2 the interim between sessions and that task force members are entitled to per diem and travel
3 expenses; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
5 proposed legislative changes to the legislature by March 1, 2004, and may make any interim
6 reports it considers advisable; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated at 11:59 p.m. on May 15,
8 2004.