

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, Stoltze

Introduced: 4/29/03

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to support for a federal appropriation for expansion of the Anchorage Jail.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Corrections and the United States Marshals
4 Service have identified the need for additional prison bed space in the state, including pretrial
5 prison bed space for federal defendants in the Anchorage area; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Marshals Service currently incarcerates approximately
7 100 federal prisoners in the state and expects these numbers to grow in the coming years; and

8 **WHEREAS** the state currently contracts with the United States Marshals Service to
9 provide 50 federal prisoner beds; the current contract with the United States Marshals Service
10 is met or exceeded at all times; the Alaska Department of Corrections does not have enough
11 prison bed capacity to expand the contract for federal prisoners, forcing Alaska pretrial
12 federal defendants to be transported out of state; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Marshals Service transports Alaska federal prisoners to
14 and from the SeaTac Federal Detention Center approximately six times a month, thereby
15 increasing the costs to the federal government and increasing the risk to the public and
16 officers during these transports; and

1 **WHEREAS** the United States Marshals Service has expressed an interest in
2 contracting for additional prison bed space with the Alaska Department of Corrections; and

3 **WHEREAS** the nature of federal prisoners often requires them to be housed
4 separately from their codefendants, requiring more housing options within the Alaska prison
5 system and additional bed capacity statewide; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Federal Bureau of Prisons conducted a study on the feasibility of
7 building a federal prison in Alaska and determined not to proceed further due to an
8 insufficient number of Alaska prisoners within the Federal Bureau of Prisons system; and

9 **WHEREAS** it is in the best interest of all parties to expand the available prison bed
10 space in the Anchorage area, thereby lowering the costs to the federal government, reducing
11 the overcrowding on the current system both in Alaska and at the SeaTac Federal Detention
12 Center, and improving public and officer safety through fewer transports;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the proposed
14 expansion of law enforcement activities throughout Alaska planned by the United States
15 Marshals Service, the United States Attorney's office, and other federal criminal justice
16 agencies operating in Alaska; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United
18 States Congress to appropriate the \$30,000,000 necessary to fund the expansion of the
19 Anchorage Jail to house up to 200 Alaska federal prisoners.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
21 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
22 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate;
23 the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis
24 Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority
25 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
26 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.