

HCS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4(STA) am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/4/03

Offered: 3/28/03

Sponsor(s): SENATORS GREEN, Wilken, Ogan, Cowdery, Guess, Ben Stevens, Taylor, Bunde, French, Dyson, Lincoln, Wagoner, Seekins, Elton, Olson, Therriault, Hoffman, Davis, Gary Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Lynn, Gruenberg, Samuels

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans live, work, and play in and on the edge of the wilderness; and

4 **WHEREAS** Alaskans spend twice as much time enjoying the abundance and variety
5 of Alaska's winter recreational opportunities as most other Americans spend in winter
6 recreational activities; and

7 **WHEREAS** many of the state's popular winter recreation areas are subject to
8 avalanche danger; and

9 **WHEREAS** many Alaskans are not properly educated or equipped to recognize and
10 respond to avalanches; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska has the highest avalanche death rate per capita in the nation; over
12 70 Alaskans have died in Alaska avalanches since 1968, and 28 have perished since 1999; and

13 **WHEREAS** education on the recognition of avalanche risks, response to avalanches,
14 and the use of appropriate equipment could reduce avalanche-related tragedies that create
15 undue hardships and great personal loss for families and communities;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of

1 November as Avalanche Awareness Month; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
3 groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Avalanche
4 Awareness Month with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of avalanche
5 dangers, how to respond to avalanches, and the use of appropriate equipment in avalanche
6 areas.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
8 Governor; to Aedene Arthur, Backcountry Avalanche Awareness and Response Team; to
9 Doug Fesler and Jill Fredston, co-directors, The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.; to Bill
10 Glude, Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center; to the Honorable William Tandeske,
11 Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; to the director, Division of Alaska State
12 Troopers, Alaska Department of Public Safety; to the mayors, chiefs of police, and fire chiefs
13 of the Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Denali Borough, Haines
14 Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna
15 Borough, City and Borough of Sitka, City of Cordova, City of Fairbanks, City of Palmer, City
16 of Petersburg, City of Seward, City of Skagway, City of Valdez, and City of Wasilla; to the
17 operators of the ski areas at Eaglecrest, Alyeska, Alpenglow, Hilltop, Moose Mountain, Ski
18 Land, Birch Hill, and Cordova Ski Hill; to the operators of the Alaska Trail Blazers, Inc.; and
19 to legislative communication offices for statewide distribution.