

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/17/03

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

Sponsor(s): SENATORS ELTON, Gary Stevens

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the establishment of Reserve Officer Training Corps programs in Alaska by**
2 **the United States Coast Guard.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard is responsible for maritime law
5 enforcement, drug interdiction, and fisheries protection, in addition to providing maritime
6 search and rescue, saving countless lives in Alaska and other United States waters; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard is the branch of the armed services with
8 primary responsibility for protecting the maritime borders of the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard performs a tremendous amount of work in
10 Alaska and provides critical services that affect the daily lives of the citizens of Alaska; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard today has a heavier workload due to the
12 increased security measures necessary to protect the safety of the citizens of the United States;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** a training program for reserve officers for the United States Coast Guard
15 Ready Reserve would help the United States Coast Guard provide essential services in times
16 of national and state emergency; and

1 **WHEREAS** a Reserve Officer Training Corps program would enhance educational
2 and career opportunities for students at the University of Alaska Southeast and other
3 University of Alaska campuses; and

4 **WHEREAS** an ROTC program would enhance the ability of the University of Alaska
5 to recruit high-level students from around the country; and

6 **WHEREAS** a high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program would
7 provide valuable education and career opportunities to Alaska high school students; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard has had over 10 years of experience
9 operating a public high school JROTC program at the Maritime and Science Technology
10 Academy in Miami, Florida; and

11 **WHEREAS** Juneau, Alaska, is the headquarters for the Seventeenth Coast Guard
12 District; and

13 **WHEREAS** Kodiak, Alaska, is the largest United States Coast Guard installation in
14 the Seventeenth Coast Guard District; and

15 **WHEREAS** both programs would capitalize on the excellent relationship between the
16 United States Coast Guard and the communities in Alaska and further strengthen those ties;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Coast
18 Guard to create an ROTC program at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
20 Coast Guard to expand its JROTC program by adding units at Juneau-Douglas High School in
21 Juneau, Alaska, and Kodiak High School in Kodiak, Alaska; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United
23 States Congress to show its support for the United States Coast Guard and its missions by
24 funding these programs; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United
26 States Coast Guard to explore the feasibility of establishing ROTC and JROTC programs in
27 other coastal communities in Alaska.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
29 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
30 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House
31 of Representatives; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the

1 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
2 Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Ridge,
3 United States Secretary of Homeland Security; Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant of
4 the United States Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Kenneth Venuto, Assistant Commandant for
5 Human Resources of the United States Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Robert C. Olsen,
6 Superintendent of the United States Coast Guard Academy; Rear Admiral James W.
7 Underwood, Commander of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District; Brigadier General Craig E.
8 Campbell, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Betty
9 Walters, Superintendent of the Kodiak Island Borough School District; Margaret "Peggy"
10 Cowan, Superintendent of the Juneau School District; Bob Meade, Principal of Kodiak High
11 School; Deborah Morse, Principal of Juneau-Douglas High School; and to the Honorable Ted
12 Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
13 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.