

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(SED)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Offered: 5/11/07

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS BY REQUEST

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to civics education and a citizens' advisory task force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans place a high value on meaningful civic learning in our schools;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of each generation of Americans to teach the next
6 generation how democracy works; and

7 **WHEREAS** research shows that, although Alaska has some examples of excellence in
8 civics education, there has been a steady decline in the attention paid to advancing civic
9 learning opportunities, locally, statewide, and nationally; and

10 **WHEREAS** curricula or programs that integrate national, state, and local civics
11 content into reading, writing, and math instruction can successfully engage students in civic
12 learning without diminishing attention to tested subjects; and

13 **WHEREAS** the final report of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project, dated
14 November 2006, recommended 10 ways in which civics education could be advanced in
15 Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** one recommendation of the volunteer group was the creation of a

1 statewide entity to review Alaska's civics standards for propriety and accuracy, assist in
2 teacher professional development, and develop incentive and reward programs for exemplary
3 schools and teachers; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature endorses the importance of improving civics
5 education in our public schools and supports the creation of a citizens' advisory task force;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that a Citizens' Advisory Task
7 Force on Civics Education Policy is established in the legislative branch to review Alaska's
8 content standards for civics education, recommend well-articulated civics curricula, and
9 propose effective professional development strategies for teachers in a comprehensive
10 fashion; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Citizens' Advisory Task Force on Civics Education
12 Policy consists of six appointed members and includes additional members as recommended
13 by the leader of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House
15 of Representatives shall each appoint two members, the Governor shall appoint one member,
16 and the commissioner of education and early development shall appoint one member who is
17 an employee of the Department of Education and Early Development to serve on the Citizens'
18 Advisory Task Force on Civics Education Policy; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force report back to the legislature and the
20 Alaska Board of Education and Early Development on or before the 30th day of the Second
21 Session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature on ways to implement the
22 recommendations of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the six appointed members of the citizens' advisory
24 task force may receive compensation for per diem or reimbursement for travel or other
25 expenses incurred by serving on the task force.