

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS STEVENS, Davis

Introduced: 3/30/07

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Education, Finance

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 and math instruction can successfully engage students in civic learning
12 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;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the importance of
5 improving civics education in our public schools and supports the creation of a citizens'
6 advisory task force to review Alaska's content standards for civics education, recommend
7 well-articulated civics curricula, and propose effective professional development strategies for
8 teachers in a comprehensive fashion; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House
10 of Representatives each appoint two members and the Governor appoint one member to a
11 citizens' advisory task force on civics education policy; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force report back to the legislature and the
13 Alaska Board of Education and Early Development on or before January 1, 2008, on ways to
14 implement the recommendations of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the citizens' advisory task force may
16 receive compensation for per diem or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred by
17 serving on the task force.