

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 5/15/07
Referred: Taken Up

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing and relating to the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans clearly believe in the value of the quality of education for our
4 children; and

5 **WHEREAS**, under art. VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, a system of
6 public schools is required to be established and maintained; and

7 **WHEREAS** the legislature finds that the present system of providing assistance to the
8 public school system is a complex matter and should be studied for possible modification and
9 improvement; and

10 **WHEREAS**, during the period of study, an alternative mechanism to the existing
11 system of financial support for public schools may be desirable; and

12 **WHEREAS** a study conducted in the state in 2004 by the Institute of Social and
13 Economic Research recommended that the school district cost factors under AS 14.17.460(a)
14 be increased to more accurately reflect the cost differentials in rural school districts;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Joint Legislative
16 Education Funding Task Force is established for the purpose of examining school district cost

1 differentials and the existing formula for distributing state aid for education; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

3 (1) evaluating proposals that are based on available facts and conclusions
4 pertaining to school district cost factors and the foundation formula;

5 (2) recommending improvements or additions to the laws providing for
6 education funding; and

7 (3) taking public comments on education funding and school district cost
8 factors; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force consists of 11 members as follows:

10 (1) five shall be from the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

11 (2) five shall be from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of
12 the house of representatives; and

13 (3) one shall be appointed by the governor; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
15 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the task force; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall meet during the interim between
17 sessions; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
19 proposed legislative changes to the governor and the legislature by September 1, 2007, and
20 may make any additional reports it considers advisable; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the task force is not able to propose a solution for
22 school funding, including the treatment of school district cost factors, the governor is
23 encouraged to call the legislature into a special session before the date the Second Regular
24 Session of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature convenes in order to address school funding; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force is
26 terminated on October 15, 2007.