

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION FUNDING TASK FORCE

Introduced: 1/18/08

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Education

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing and relating to the Education Funding District Cost Factor Commission.**

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

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

5 **WHEREAS** the cost of providing adequate public education for children living in the
6 state varies significantly among geographic areas of the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** accurately measuring relative cost differences is integral to equitable
8 funding for education across geographic areas; and

9 **WHEREAS** the cost differentials have been a recurring policy issue since the current
10 funding formula was adopted in 1998; and

11 **WHEREAS** the findings of economic analyses conducted in 2002 and 2004 have
12 raised questions and controversy within the Alaska State Legislature; and

13 **WHEREAS** previous determinations of cost differentials have been static and,
14 consequently, have become outdated;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Education Funding
16 District Cost Factor Commission is established for the purpose of examining school district

1 cost differentials and creating a valid and durable model that can be updated to accurately
2 reflect the costs of providing education; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission consists of 11 members as follows:

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

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

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

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
9 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the commission; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a commission member is subject to reappointment or
11 replacement if either the president of the senate or speaker of the house of representatives is
12 replaced and the member was appointed by the former president or speaker; a member may
13 continue to serve even if the member is no longer a state legislator; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall submit a report of its findings
15 and proposed legislative changes to the governor and the legislature by September 30, 2009,
16 and may make any additional reports it considers advisable; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Education Funding District Cost Factor
18 Commission is terminated on December 31, 2010.