

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS STEDMAN, French, Ellis, Davis, Thomas, Kookesh, Paskvan

Introduced: 3/20/09
Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Certifying that the State of Alaska requests and will use any funds provided to the state,**
2 **a state agency, a municipality, or a political subdivision of the state under the American**
3 **Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, on February 13, 2009, the United States Congress approved the
6 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, which President Obama
7 signed four days later; and

8 **WHEREAS** the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is intended to
9 help repair, restore, and rebuild the nation's economy, which is suffering from increasing rates
10 of unemployment, home mortgage defaults and foreclosures, and business and personal
11 bankruptcies; and

12 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska faces significant revenue shortfalls because of low oil
13 prices that affect all aspects of the state's economy; and

14 **WHEREAS** rising unemployment is affecting state, municipal, and community
15 services as more Alaskans face tightening household budgets while looking for work; and

1 **WHEREAS** the unemployment rate in Alaska rose to 7.9 percent in January 2009;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** 5,000 fewer Alaskans had jobs in January 2009 than in the previous
4 month; and

5 **WHEREAS** Alaskans have lost jobs in the construction, trade, transportation, and
6 hospitality industries; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2009, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce
8 Development reported that "the U.S. recession and global economic slowdown are affecting
9 the state"; and

10 **WHEREAS** the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides funds to
11 states and municipalities for investments in roads, airports, mass transit, energy efficiency,
12 schools, clean water projects, and other infrastructure projects, as well as Medicaid assistance,
13 education, home weatherization, and other public services; and

14 **WHEREAS** the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides that, if a
15 governor fails to certify the state's intention to request and use funds provided under the Act
16 within 45 days after its enactment, the state legislature may, by concurrent resolution, certify
17 the state's acceptance of the funds not accepted by the governor; and

18 **WHEREAS** the services, programs, and projects standing to benefit from the
19 acceptance and use of federal funds include assistance for job training, housing, medical care,
20 and other services, programs, and projects; and

21 **WHEREAS** it is incumbent on the legislature, as the elected representative body for
22 the State of Alaska, to take the initiative at this time of nationwide financial crisis;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature certifies the state's acceptance
24 of all funds that may be available to the state and its agencies, municipalities, and political
25 subdivisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and that the state
26 will use the funds to create jobs and promote economic growth; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature certifies its intent to
28 request, accept, and use any funds available to the state under the American Recovery and
29 Reinvestment Act of 2009 that are not accepted for use by the governor.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
31 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and

1 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
2 Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.
3 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
4 delegation in Congress; the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska; and federal agencies
5 that require a copy of this resolution.