

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, Kawasaki, Isaacson, Pruitt

Introduced: 3/15/13

Referred: House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the**
2 **University of Alaska Fairbanks as a national leader in unmanned aircraft research and**
3 **development; and relating to a Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft
6 Systems Integration at University of Alaska Fairbanks as the state's leader in unmanned
7 aircraft systems research, meeting the goals of industry, the Federal Aviation Administration,
8 and government operations; and

9 **WHEREAS** the legislature has provided significant financial support to the Alaska
10 Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at University of Alaska Fairbanks to
11 further the Center's research initiatives; and

12 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Aerospace
13 Corporation, the Alaska Aviation Safety Project, and other public and private institutions have
14 developed cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal
15 Aviation Administration, the United States Department of Interior, the United States

1 Department of Defense, and others to further advance the research, development and use of
2 technology to benefit and support Alaskans and Americans with the safe use of unmanned
3 aircraft systems; and

4 **WHEREAS**, since 2001, the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems
5 Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has been designing payloads and upgrades
6 for unmanned aircraft systems, testing and evaluating their safety and effectiveness,
7 developing and demonstrating new uses for various potential users, working with the Federal
8 Aviation Administration to make the use of unmanned aircraft systems safe, and developing
9 technology to improve safety; and

10 **WHEREAS** the University of Alaska Fairbanks has become known across the nation
11 for its leadership in advancing the state of the art and the safe use of unmanned aircraft
12 systems; and

13 **WHEREAS** the importance of the Center's work to the state was recently recognized
14 by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska when the regents established the Alaska
15 Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to
16 continue research and development of unmanned aircraft systems for the benefit of the state;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, as the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the
19 University of Alaska Fairbanks has demonstrated, unmanned aircraft systems can be designed
20 for gathering information necessary to protect human life in search and rescue operations,
21 aiding in the management of resources, including marine mammal and fisheries research,
22 providing humanitarian assistance, providing a platform for scientific research in the Arctic,
23 and for other private and public sector activities, as was demonstrated when the Center used
24 an unmanned aircraft system to assist the United States Coast Guard Cutter Healy and the
25 Russian tanker Renda in delivering fuel to Nome in 2012; and

26 **WHEREAS** unmanned aircraft systems may present a substantial risk to privacy, but
27 neither the Federal Aviation Administration nor any other state or federal agency currently
28 has specific statutory authority to regulate privacy matters relating to unmanned aircraft
29 systems; and

30 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the
31 University of Alaska Fairbanks is located in an area of geographic and climatic diversity

1 where the air and surface population density is desirable for conducting research and
2 development of unmanned aircraft systems; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Federal Aviation Administration currently requires the designation of
4 one pilot to be in command of an unmanned aircraft system at all times, restricts use of
5 unmanned aircraft systems by public agencies to conduct routine flights over urban or
6 populated areas and over heavily trafficked roads or open-air assemblies of people, the
7 discharge or dropping of objects while in flight, and the operation of unmanned aircraft
8 systems without the capability of pilot intervention;

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska state government and the state's business and research community
10 continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to promote the establishment of
11 safe unmanned aircraft system ranges onshore and offshore Alaska, which will help establish
12 procedures for the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace
13 System; and

14 **WHEREAS** the state has the highest per capita use of general aviation activity in the
15 nation, and Alaska aviation organizations have helped the Federal Aviation Administration
16 develop the next generation of air traffic control for the nation and the world, while making
17 major gains for the state's aviation safety in the process;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Center
19 for Unmanned Aircraft at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a leader in aviation
20 pioneering and further recognizes the significant benefit to the state and nation the Center
21 provides in research and development of unmanned aircraft systems; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the efforts
23 of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska
24 Fairbanks to become one of the nation's six test sites for unmanned aircraft systems testing
25 and research; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force on
27 Unmanned Aircraft Systems is created in the legislative branch and shall consist of 15
28 members, who, except for the member from the senate and the member from the house of
29 representatives, shall be appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the
30 house of representatives, as follows:

31 (1) one senator selected by the president of the senate, who shall serve as co-

1 chair;

2 (2) one representative selected by the speaker of the house of representatives,
3 who shall serve as co-chair;

4 (3) the commissioner of transportation and public facilities or the
5 commissioner's designee;

6 (4) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;

7 (5) the commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner's designee;

8 (6) one member representing municipal law enforcement;

9 (7) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

10 (8) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee;

11 (9) the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or
12 the adjunct general's designee;

13 (10) a member representing the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems
14 Integration at University of Alaska Fairbanks;

15 (11) a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics;

16 (12) a member from the Aviation Advisory Board;

17 (13) a member from the Medallion Foundation; and be it

18 (14) one member of the Aerospace States Association;

19 (15) one member of the Alaska UAS Interest Group, United States
20 Department of the Interior; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the
22 manner of the original appointment; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force shall include

24 (1) reviewing regulations and guidance from the Federal Aviation
25 Administration regarding unmanned aircraft systems;

26 (2) providing written recommendations, together with suggested legislation,
27 for a comprehensive state policy for unmanned aircraft that protects privacy and allows the
28 use of unmanned aircraft systems for public and private applications; and

29 (3) submitting, not later than January 15, 2014, an initial report to the
30 legislature and, not later than January 15, 2015, submitting a final report to the legislature;
31 and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet as frequently as necessary to
2 carry out its responsibilities; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet during and between legislative
4 sessions and may request administrative and technical support from the University of Alaska
5 Fairbanks; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the task force serve without
7 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and
8 commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force terminates on January 15, 2015.