

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9(STA) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/2/26

Offered: 2/6/26

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CARRICK, St. Clair, Eischeid, Costello, Hannan, Josephson, Kopp, Story, Saddler

A RESOLUTION

1 **Honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and**
2 **celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States of America.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Declaration of Independence was voted on July 2, 1776, adopted July
5 4, 1776, and formally engrossed and signed by a majority of delegates on August 2, 1776; the
6 July 4, 1776, adoption in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the date that typically signifies the
7 founding of the United States of America; and

8 **WHEREAS** the 56 patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence are John
9 Adams, Samuel Adams, Josiah Bartlett, Carter Braxton, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel
10 Chase, Abraham Clark, George Clymer, William Ellery, William Floyd, Benjamin Franklin,
11 Elbridge Gerry, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, John Hancock, Benjamin Harrison, John Hart,
12 Joseph Hewes, Thomas Heyward, Jr., William Hooper, Stephen Hopkins, Francis Hopkinson,
13 Samuel Huntington, Thomas Jefferson, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Francis
14 Lewis, Philip Livingston, Thomas Lynch, Jr., Thomas McKean, Arthur Middleton, Lewis
15 Morris, Robert Morris, John Morton, Thomas Nelson, Jr., William Paca, Robert Treat Paine,
16 John Penn, George Read, Caesar Rodney, George Ross, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Edward

1 Rutledge, Roger Sherman, James Smith, Richard Stockton, Thomas Stone, George Taylor,
2 Matthew Thornton, George Walton, William Whipple, William Williams, James Wilson, John
3 Witherspoon, Oliver Wolcott, and George Wythe; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Declaration of Independence outlines the founding principles of the
5 United States of America by declaring "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men
6 are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that
7 among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Declaration of Independence proclaimed timeless principles of
9 profound significance to the history of the United States, including that all people are created
10 equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of
11 happiness, and that a government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States was founded on the principle of federalism, which
14 emphasizes a decentralized system of government in which powers are divided between
15 national and state governments, and fosters liberty, accountability, and responsiveness to local
16 communities; and

17 **WHEREAS** the founding of the United States initiated a journey toward forming "a
18 more perfect Union," marked by historic achievements, struggles, and progress in realizing
19 the nation's founding principles for all citizens; and

20 **WHEREAS** signing the Declaration of Independence was a critical part of the
21 Revolutionary War, which ended when the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783,
22 and granted the United States of America independence from Great Britain; and

23 **WHEREAS** the state has played a significant role in the history of the United States
24 by contributing to the nation's development, culture, economy, and defense through the efforts
25 and sacrifices of the state's citizens; and

26 **WHEREAS** the semiquincentennial of the United States offers a unique opportunity
27 for the people of the state to reflect on a shared history, honor the diverse contributions of the
28 nation's citizens, and continually strive to create a more perfect union for future generations;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS** commemorative activities across the state will provide educational
31 opportunities, foster civic engagement, encourage community participation, and strengthen

1 appreciation for the history, federalist principles, and foundational ideals on which both the
2 nation and this state were built; and

3 **WHEREAS** over the past 250 years there have been many efforts to expand the rights
4 of all citizens to uphold that self-evident truth, including ending slavery, expanding voting
5 rights to women and citizens of all races, expanding civil rights for all citizens, pursuing equal
6 rights by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, continuing efforts to respect and
7 acknowledge the Indigenous communities who, for thousands of years, have stewarded the
8 land that comprises the United States, and much more; and

9 **WHEREAS** July 4, 2026, will be the 250th anniversary of the signing of the
10 Declaration of Independence;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the 250th anniversary of
12 the Declaration of Independence and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United
13 States of America; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all citizens,
15 communities, educational institutions, civic organizations, and businesses in the state
16 to participate in commemorative events and activities that reflect on the nation's history,
17 celebrate the nation's achievements, and reaffirm a commitment to the ideals of liberty,
18 equality, federalism, and self-governance; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages educational
20 institutions across the state to enhance civics education to ensure that future generations
21 understand the importance of active civic participation and the principles of federalism and
22 self-governance that protect liberty and promote a responsive government.