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IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR Barnes

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Authorizing the Transfer of the Castle Hill Site by the City of Sitka to the Territory of Alaska and Providing for Acquisition of any Interest of the United States therein and Providing for Maintenance of Castle Hill as an Alaskan Historical Site.

WHEREAS there is in the City of Sitka a parcel of land containing 1 1/2 acres known as Castle Hill which was the site of famous Baranof Castle, residence and headquarters of the Governors of Russian America for many years prior to acquisition of the Territory by the United States on this spot in 1867, and on which site the flag of the United States was first raised over Alaska; and

WHEREAS this site was then used as administrative headquarters of the United States Government in Alaska for many years; and

WHEREAS under Act of Congress of July 7, 1932, 47 Stat. 609, Ch. (7 USC 336 g), C. F. Marvin, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, transferred the Castle Hill grounds and Buildings to the City of Sitka, Alaska on the 2nd day of November, 1932, subject to the condition "that should said property ever be sold, assigned, transferred, leased or used for commercial purposes, title thereto shall revert to the United States of America"; and

WHEREAS it is the expressed desire of the Legislature that the Territory of Alaska initiate a program of acquisition and

1 preservation of outstanding historical sites in Alaska; and

2 WHEREAS the City of Sitka has expressed a willingness to  
3 transfer the Castle Hill Site without charge, to the Territory  
4 of Alaska for the uses and purposes herein mentioned; and

5 WHEREAS by Section 12, Chapter 136 Session Laws of Alaska  
6 1953, the Territorial Land Commissioner is empowered to accept  
7 in the name of the Territory of Alaska and administer any lands  
8 acquired by the Territory; and

9 WHEREAS it is possible but uncertain that the United States  
10 may have or claim some interest in the Castle Hill Site other than  
11 the reservation hereinbefore mentioned,

12 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the  
13 Territory of Alaska, in Regular Session Assembled, that The City  
14 of Sitka be, and is hereby empowered to execute such instrument  
15 or instruments of grant and conveyance as may be necessary and  
16 appropriate to transfer to the Territory of Alaska its title and  
17 interest to the Castle Hill Site in the City of Sitka, designated  
18 as lot 8, on the plan of settlement at New Archangel (Sitka)  
19 attached to the Protocol of Transfer signed by Lovell H. Rosseau,  
20 United States Commissioner and Alexis Petchoureff, Russian  
21 Commissioner, as appears in House Executive Document No. 125,  
22 49th Congress, 2nd Session; and

23 The Land Commissioner is directed to do and perform such acts  
24 as may be necessary to acquire in the name of the Territory of  
25 Alaska the interest of the City of Sitka and/or the United States  
26 Government in such property, and to do such things as may be  
27 necessary to restore and maintain the Castle Hill site as an Histor-  
28 ical Site of Alaska. An appropriation sufficient to carry out the  
29 intent of the Legislature as expressed herein is authorized.