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1 IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR STEPOVICH

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA:

6 WHEREAS, Public Law 167, 73rd Congress, 1934, popularly known
7 as the Johnson-O'Malley Act, authorizes the Secretary of the
8 Interior to contract with any State or Territory having legal
9 authority to do so for the education, medical attention, agri-
10 cultural assistance, and social welfare, including the relief of
11 distress, of beneficiaries of the Bureau of Indian Affairs resi-
12 dent in such State or Territory, and

13 WHEREAS, Public Law 291, 82nd Congress, 1952, authorizes the
14 Secretary of the Interior to contract with a State or Territory for
15 the management of hospitals and other medical facilities operated
16 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for its beneficiaries, and

17 WHEREAS, it is generally agreed that Territorial management
18 of all programs relating to the education, welfare and health of
19 residents of Alaska permits better coordination and eliminates
20 unnecessary duplication of administrative expense, and

21 WHEREAS, contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and
22 certain Territorial executive agencies have been entered into
23 pursuant to Public Law 167 and Public Law 291, as identified
24 above, and

25 WHEREAS, both executive and legislative agencies have recom-
26 mended that the Territory of Alaska enter into contracts with the
27 Federal Government pursuant to Public Law 167 and Public Law 291,
28 as identified herein, which contracts would obligate the Territory
29 of Alaska to manage and direct large and costly programs which are

1 currently operated by the Alaska Native Service of the Bureau of
2 Indian Affairs, and

3 WHEREAS, primary responsibility for programs with respect to
4 the education, welfare and health of beneficiaries of the Bureau
5 of Indian Affairs rests with the Federal Government and the
6 Federal Government cannot relieve itself of that responsibility by
7 contracts drawn pursuant to Public Law 167 and Public Law 291, as
8 described herein;

9 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 TERRITORY OF ALASKA: that the Territory of Alaska, and executive
11 agencies thereof, may contract with the Secretary of the Interior,
12 or with any other officer or agency of the Federal Government, for
13 one or more of the purposes set out in Public Law 167 and Public
14 Law 291, as identified herein; Provided, that there are reasonable
15 assurances that adequate funds will be available to meet the costs
16 of the programs contemplated by such contracts and there is no
17 obligation, stated or implied, on the Territory of Alaska to
18 assume additional financial obligations with respect to such con-
19 tracts; Provided further, that the contracts shall not be binding
20 on the Territory of Alaska until it has been determined by the
21 Board of Administration that said contracts meet the requirements
22 of this resolution.
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