

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR MOODY

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the construction
6 of a mental hospital in Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, THE HOUSE
8 OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING:

9 WHEREAS, after many years of effort, Alaska, by action of
10 the 84th Congress, finally gained control of the care of its
11 own mentally ill; and

12 WHEREAS, since the passage of this Federal legislation in
13 1956, Alaskan patients have still been cared for at Morningside
14 in Oregon, an antiquated and distant method of care that had
15 provided one of the reasons pressed on Congress for action; and

16 WHEREAS, the Federal legislation provided for the amount of
17 \$6,500,000 to be granted to Alaska for the construction of men-
18 tal health facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, if this earmarked grant is not obligated by the
20 State of Alaska by June 30, 1960 it is lost to the State; and

21 WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature in 1957 set up the Alaska
22 Department of Health as a mental health authority and provided
23 for constructing and equipping mental health hospitals and other
24 facilities through this authority; and

25 WHEREAS, the \$6,500,000 is available to Alaska with no
26 necessity for matching funds and with only the proviso that it
27 be spent for mental hospital construction; and

28 WHEREAS, this money could be used to build a well-equipped
29 hospital without the need for complementing State monies;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Alaska in First Session assembled, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor of Alaska be urged to work by and through the Alaska Department of Health, or any department succeeding to the functions of the Department of Health, for the speedy utilization of the Federal money available for hospital construction for care of the mentally ill, and that such a hospital be built in the State of Alaska at the earliest possible date.