

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. GIERSDORF

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to state acquisition of the
6 Wickersham Collection and establish-
7 ing a Wickersham Shrine.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE IN FIRST LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION
9 ASSEMBLED, THE SENATE CONCURRING:

10 WHEREAS, Judge James Wickersham came to Alaska in the year
11 1900 and established government and courts from the border to the
12 Bering Sea and from Point Barrow to Southeastern Alaska, and in
13 1908 was elected as Delegate to Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge James Wickersham was one of those rare persons
15 who not only played a vital role in history, but also wrote and
16 contributed to the study of history; and

17 WHEREAS, Judge Wickersham compiled and collected manuscripts,
18 documents, books, maps, tales, and artifacts of Alaska which,
19 together with his personal diaries, writings and letters comprise
20 the most outstanding and valuable single holding of Alaskana now
21 extant; and

22 WHEREAS, this collection and compilation of historical docu-
23 ments and records of Russian America from the time of Bering's
24 exploration to 1867 when it was purchased by the United States,
25 including Alaska's time as a District, and its early years as a
26 Territory, is much sought after by other libraries and museums,
27 and its acquisition by one of them might mean its removal from
28 Alaska; and

29 WHEREAS, the state would be remiss to the point of criminal
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1 negligence were it to allow this outstanding historical collection
2 to be taken from it; and.

3 WHEREAS, the House of Wickersham, by virtue of its location,
4 architecture and furnishings is typical of early Alaskana, and
5 should, together with the Wickersham Collection, be preserved for
6 posterity, and would, as a Shrine, be a great asset to the state
7 as a tourist attraction as well as a research center for studies
8 of historical significance; and

9 WHEREAS, there are national Foundation funds available for
10 restoration and establishment of historical shrines;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives in First
12 Legislature, Second Session assembled, the Senate concurring, that
13 the Governor actively seek funds from available Foundation grants
14 or on behalf of the state enter into negotiations for the acquisi-
15 tion of the Wickersham home and collection for the purpose of
16 establishing an Alaskan Historical Shrine, and that the Governor
17 report on the progress with interested parties and negotiations,
18 and make recommendations to the next legislature as to the best
19 method of state acquisition of this collection.

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