

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 Legislative Audit Committee in a recent report

26

has recommended a "go-slow" policy on mental hospital construc-

27

tion at this time; and

28

WHEREAS, the effect of such inaction would be to continue to

29

leave the State in an almost identical situation to that existing

1 when the Federal government granted Alaska the responsibility for
2 care of the mentally ill, with patients still shipped to Morning-
3 side and only minor mental health care being performed in the
4 State; and

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

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

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

19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29