

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR BRONSON

2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 21

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR OF ALASKA; AND THE
6 HONORABLE HUGH J. WADE, ACTING GOVERNOR OF ALASKA:

7 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
8 First Legislature, First Session assembled respectfully submits
9 that:

10 WHEREAS, there is a need for financial assistance to several
11 school districts in Alaska where, despite the full measure of
12 state support provided comparable districts, and despite local
13 taxation equal to or beyond the state average, such districts are
14 unable to meet school financial needs primarily because of the
15 impact of Native populations; and

16 WHEREAS, there is need for more high school programs through-
17 out Alaska, and particularly a need for local and regional high
18 schools in the vast area of Alaska inhabited primarily by Native
19 peoples; and

20 WHEREAS, there is a need for provision of transportation and
21 subsistence funds to Native families for the support of their
22 children to live in areas serviced by a high school; and

23 WHEREAS, there is need for development of a long-range plan
24 for transfer of operational responsibility of the schools pre-
25 sently operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the State of
26 Alaska on a planned and scheduled basis which would insure that
27 adequate building facilities were available, and would further
28 insure necessary and adequate financial support through the
29 Bureau of Indian Affairs for the operation of such schools;

1 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist does respectfully request
2 that the Office of Governor of Alaska initiate a request for com-
3 plete policy discussions to be held with the Commissioner of
4 Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Interior, representatives of
5 the Juneau Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, representa-
6 tives of the Department of Education, and representatives of the
7 Alaska Legislative Council, with a view to developing a long-range
8 agreement which will encompass the following points:

9 (1) A plan for transfer of operational and major fin-
10 ancial responsibility of the present Bureau of Indian Affairs
11 day schools to the State of Alaska on a planned and scheduled
12 long range basis which would cover a 15 to 20 year period. Inclu-
13 ded in such a plan there would need to be specific provision that
14 the Bureau of Indian Affairs would provide necessary and adequate
15 school facilities at each location before the state would accept
16 title and assume major financial responsibility.

17 (2) Consideration of the need for more high school
18 programs throughout Alaska and particularly the need for local
19 and regional high schools for at least the 9th and 10th grade level,
20 with the continuation of Mt. Edgecumbe as a regional high school
21 for the 11th and 12th grades and to serve Southeast Alaska as
22 necessary.

23 (3) Arrangements whereby the Bureau of Indian Affairs
24 would provide transportation and subsistence funds to families
25 for the support of their pupils to live in such places as Bethel,
26 Dillingham, Kodiak, Nome, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Cordova, Juneau,
27 Petersburg, Sitka and Ketchikan while attending local high schools.

28 (4) The provision of financial assistance to school
29 districts under the Johnson O'Malley Act in those cases where

1 school districts, despite the full measure of state support pro-
2 vided comparable districts and despite local taxation equal to or
3 beyond the state average, are unable to meet school financial
4 needs.

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