

1 IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS HARRISON AND MCNEALY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to providing a school building  
6 for students in Bethel.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS, the state has been forced to use the Samuelson Pub-  
9 lic School in Bethel because the numbers of Native people moving  
10 into Bethel from the river villages have been greater than could  
11 reasonably be anticipated; and

12 WHEREAS, even using the Samuelson building, classroom space  
13 is insufficient to meet the educational needs of the community for  
14 the 1964-1965 school year; and

15 WHEREAS, the Alaska Fire Marshal, on January 30, 1964,  
16 condemned the Samuelson building and prohibited its further use  
17 for any purpose because it is in "direct violation of all accept-  
18 able standards for school safety"; has "no margin of safety"; and  
19 its continued use would render the state civilly liable and  
20 probably also criminally responsible for the loss of life continued  
21 use of the building would cause; and

22 WHEREAS, the condemnation of the building forces the transfer  
23 of 145 pupils who formerly attended school there into the other  
24 already overcrowded school buildings in the Bethel area; and

25 WHEREAS, state and local funds for constructing the necessary  
26 10 new classrooms are exhausted and the funds could not have been  
27 planned for because the influx of people from the river villages  
28 could not have been anticipated;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Congressional Delegation seek

1 to have added to the appropriation of the Department of the  
2 Interior, for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, approximately \$750,000  
3 for new classroom construction in the Bethel area to accommodate  
4 the pupils that cannot now, because of the influx of Native people,  
5 be accommodated; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the  
7 Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honor-  
8 able Philleo Nash, Commissioner of Indian Affairs; the Honorable  
9 Robert L. Bennett, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and  
10 the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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