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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the ferry vessel M. V.

6 Wickersham.

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

8 WHEREAS the newest addition to the Southeastern Marine Highway system,
9 the M. V. Wickersham, has now been in service for many months; and

10 WHEREAS this vessel has been operating at a net loss of hundreds of
11 thousands of dollars to the State of Alaska and consequently to the taxpayers
12 of Alaska; and

13 WHEREAS an increase in the number of passengers or amount of cargo that
14 can utilize the M. V. Wickersham does not appear probable; and

15 WHEREAS the lack of full utilization of this ship is in large part due
16 to the provisions of the Jones Act which prohibits the shipment of cargo in
17 foreign bottom vessels between American ports; and

18 WHEREAS for months the administration has attempted unsuccessfully to
19 either have the Wickersham exempted from the Jones Act or have the Jones
20 Act amended; and

21 WHEREAS there is no indication that the United States Congress will
22 grant such an exemption; and

23 WHEREAS, because it is a foreign bottom ship flying a foreign flag, it
24 does not and cannot meet the requirements of the Southeastern Marine
25 Highway; and

26 WHEREAS, even if the Jones Act were amended, the M. V. Wickersham still
27 could not serve the needs of Southeastern Alaska in that extensive modifi-
28 cation would be needed in order to meet minimum United States Coast Guard
29 requirements and the cargo and passenger capacity would remain grossly

1 inadequate for the needs of the Southeast Marine Highway System;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixth State Legislature that in order to save
3 further pecuniary losses to the state and its people, and in order to provide
4 the people with a serviceable water road system, the initial purpose of the
5 Southeastern Marine Highway, the Governor is respectfully requested to
6 offer this vessel for sale immediately and enter into negotiations for the
7 purchase of a vessel which will more adequately meet the requirements of
8 the people of Alaska.

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