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Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a study of the possible
6 solutions to the problem of preserving
7 and retaining Alaska artifacts in the
8 state.

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

10 WHEREAS Article VIII, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution empowers the
11 legislature to provide for the acquisition of objects of historic, cultural,
12 recreational or scientific value, to reserve these objects from the public
13 domain and to provide for their administration and preservation for the use,
14 enjoyment and welfare of the people; and

15 WHEREAS many of the artifacts of Alaska's historic past have been
16 plundered, destroyed, damaged or lost, particularly in Southeast Alaska, and
17 this unfortunate state of affairs continues; and

18 WHEREAS the present state law covering artifacts located on state owned
19 or controlled lands is painfully inadequate because by far the greatest pro-
20 portion of the land in Alaska is federally owned, thus depriving the state
21 of jurisdiction over its artifacts; and

22 WHEREAS enforcement of the Federal Antiquities Act, which would protect
23 these artifacts, is found to be almost nonexistent; and

24 WHEREAS even strict enforcement of the federal law would not prevent
25 certain qualified institutions from removing these objects under permit of
26 the Secretary of the Interior, Agriculture, or Army, depending on depart-
27 mental jurisdiction; and

28 WHEREAS the state has an overriding interest in the preservation of
29 historical objects for the cultural benefit of its people; and

1 WHEREAS this area of control over, preservation and acquisition of,
2 artifacts is one fraught with controversy and jurisdictional conflict; and

3 WHEREAS research, development and implementation of new and innova-
4 tive legislation and programs to protect the integrity of Alaska historical
5 artifacts must be begun immediately for the protection of the state's
6 treasure-filled past;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Council is requested to direct a
8 study, the goal of which is to present a conceptual plan and innovative
9 legislation for the protection and preservation of Alaska's antiquities, and
10 to report its findings to the Second Session of the Sixth Legislature.