

Introduced: 1/15/70
Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the teaching of courses
6 of cultural relevance and importance
7 in the elementary and secondary
8 schools.

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

10 WHEREAS the teaching of the history, cultures and languages of the
11 native peoples of Alaska to all students has been sadly neglected in
12 Alaska's schools; and

13 WHEREAS these courses are invaluable to the native student as a means
14 of self-enrichment and of enhancement of self-image and pride, and through
15 being made available to all students they can serve as a bridge for inter-
16 cultural understanding and communication; and

17 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Education, in cooperation with the
18 Alaska Rural Schools Project, the Governor's Commission on Cross-Cultural
19 Education, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, the University of
20 Alaska and other interested groups, agencies and individuals, has in recent
21 years begun to develop programs to meet the special educational needs of
22 native Alaskans; and

23 WHEREAS the Alaskan Reader series, the curriculum guides for the teach-
24 ing of modern math, social studies, science, natural history, music, art
25 and other courses in ways which are relevant to the culture and background
26 of the students being taught, the development of Arctic and Sub-Arctic cur-
27 ricula, The Source Book on Alaska, the native studies programs, and other
28 such programs, all are worthy and commendable efforts to bridge the educa-
29 tional, social and cultural gaps which exist between the cultural and ethnic

1 groups of Alaska; and

2 WHEREAS these programs must be expanded further, the pace at which
3 they are being developed intensified, their utilization for all pupils
4 throughout the state encouraged and their existence and importance publi-
5 cized, in order to provide the best elementary and secondary education
6 possible for all the youth of the state;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department
8 of Education to intensify and broaden its programs to develop culturally
9 relevant programs for the native pupils in the state, to encourage the
10 teaching of native studies to all pupils regardless of cultural or ethnic
11 background, and to stimulate and encourage the utilization of these programs
12 in the city and borough schools throughout the state.

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29