

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 102

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to proposed Federal Communica-
6 tions Commission regulations regarding
7 marine radio communications.

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

9 WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission has recently proposed new
10 regulations relating to marine radio communications which are to apply in
11 all the states; and

12 WHEREAS these regulations provide that no new AM or double side band
13 marine radio may be licensed after January 1, 1971, and if such a radio is
14 licensed before that date, renewals may be had only up to January 1, 1977, at
15 which time AM or double side band marine radios will be prohibited; and

16 WHEREAS in place of the old style radios, vessels will be required to
17 have VHF FM radios; and

18 WHEREAS requiring this change-over will work great hardships on small
19 boat and fishing boat operators in Alaska because of a variety of factors
20 which distinguish marine operations in Alaska from those of other states; and

21 WHEREAS the VHF FM radio has only a 50-mile range and this factor could
22 be disastrous to an Alaska marine vessel operator who may travel far greater
23 distances than 50 miles from other vessels or land-based stations and

24 WHEREAS, because the single side band transmitter is much more complex
25 than an AM transmitter, it requires a greater monetary outlay for its pur-
26 chase and it requires the services of only a most skilled radio technician;
27 and

28 WHEREAS the great length of the Alaska coastline, the large area of the
29 coastal waters, the lack of skilled radio technicians in the small fishing

1 villages, and the scarcity of coastal population centers required to support
2 land-based marine stations, all demonstrate the urgent need for an exception
3 for Alaska from the proposed F.C.C. marine radio communications regulations;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Alaska Legislature requests that the
5 Federal Communications Commission delay the effective date of its proposed
6 marine radio communications regulations until hearings have been held in all
7 of the major boating areas of Alaska to determine the feasibility of their
8 application in the state.

9 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dean Burch,
10 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
11 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W.
12 Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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