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Referred: State Affairs

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Alaska Marine
6 Highway System.

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

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System was initiated in 1962 as a
9 vital waterborne service to provide economic, cultural, and communication
10 links between the cities of Southeast Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS, subsequently, similar service was initiated among the ports of
12 Southcentral Alaska; and

13 WHEREAS the system has proven of great and continuing value not only
14 as basic transportation for Alaskans, but as a favorite means of transport
15 for hundreds of thousands of dollar-spending Alaska visitors; and

16 WHEREAS in spite of the success of the system in Southeastern and South-
17 central Alaska, there exists today a sizeable gap in service between these
18 two areas of Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS, because of this gap, Alaskans and Alaska visitors are forced
20 to travel great distances through a foreign nation in order to proceed from
21 Southeastern to Southcentral Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS, if a direct marine highway link existed between Southeastern
23 Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula, travel over all-Alaskan routes would be
24 possible, as would scenic "circle trips" in which Alaskans and visitors
25 could travel one way by highway, the other by marine highway;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the Governor is respect-
27 fully requested to direct the Division of Marine Transportation to initiate,
28 during the summer season of 1972, feasibility, or "proving" sailings once a
29 month between the ports of Seward and Skagway, Haines, or Juneau, in order

1 to prove or disapprove the market acceptance and value of such service, so
2 that if the feasibility of such routes is proven, future vessels may be
3 planned and more frequent service can be scheduled between these points.

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