

Introduced: 5/3/71
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MORAN

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the incorporation of the
6 study of law into the program of the
7 Western Interstate Commission for
8 Higher Education.

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

10 WHEREAS, in the western states, Alaska virtually is the only state
11 without a school of law operating either independently or as a part of its
12 state university system but its progress requires more citizens with legal
13 training; and

14 WHEREAS, because Alaska is without professional graduate schools in the
15 healing arts and other fields, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
16 Education (WICHE) makes it possible for Alaska students interested in a
17 career in these professions to train for them at colleges and universities,
18 both public and private, throughout the western United States where these
19 professional training facilities are available; and

20 WHEREAS the WICHE program not only saves Alaskans millions of tax
21 dollars that otherwise would be required to finance the development of expen-
22 sive professional education facilities but also makes available to Alaskans,
23 who otherwise might not be able to go outside of the state to school, high
24 quality professional education and training at a cost for tuition as if they
25 were residents of the states in which they attend these institutions; and

26 WHEREAS, at present, the WICHE program tends to discriminate in favor
27 of those electing professional training in the healing arts and related
28 fields, but Alaskans desiring to practice law must obtain professional train-
29 ing at their own expense outside of Alaska; and

1 WHEREAS the cost of developing an accredited law school -- recruiting
2 and hiring a distinguished faculty, constructing an appropriate physical
3 plant, acquiring a sound professional library and building a relevant, basic
4 curriculum -- would require the diversion of financial resources;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
6 the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education to consider incorpora-
7 tion of the study of law into its program to permit Alaskans an opportunity
8 to gain the essential training required for the practice of this profession
9 and make it as readily available to them, through WICHE, as training is in
10 the valued professions in the healing arts; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that WICHE is requested to report to the Legislature
12 its findings, recommendations and progress toward the goal set out in this
13 resolution not later than the 10th legislative day of the Seventh Legisla-
14 ture, Second Session.

15 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Western Interstate Com-
16 mission for Higher Education and to Alaska's representatives to that agency.
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