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Referred: State Affairs

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to charges and leasing on  
6 state campgrounds.

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

8 WHEREAS only certain select state owned and operated campgrounds in  
9 the state are operated on a charge basis and the vast majority are not; and

10 WHEREAS these campgrounds are operated on a charge basis to profit  
11 certain individuals in the short run but in the long run it hurts them and  
12 all tourist related service industries; and

13 WHEREAS the levying of these charges on the general public for use of  
14 state owned and operated campgrounds to placate a few individuals' short-term  
15 economic gain goes a long way in leaving a bad taste in the mouth of our  
16 summer tourist camper and therefore has gone a long way toward destroying  
17 the tourist camper trade in those areas, thus making the entire community  
18 suffer the loss of this trade; and

19 WHEREAS this is certainly not in the best interest of the community  
20 nor of the state as a whole since it leaves the tourist wondering why he  
21 should have to pay for the use of state operated facilities in one area and  
22 not in another with the result that those areas where charges are being  
23 levied are suffering a disastrous slump in their tourist trade; and

24 WHEREAS the present policy of the division of parks and recreation in  
25 leasing state owned camping sites to private industry seems to be done on  
26 the sole basis of maximum short-term economic return to the state rather  
27 than on the basis of providing a much needed additional tourist accommoda-  
28 tion; and

29 WHEREAS these accommodations must be forthcoming in the very near

future and at reasonable rates if the state is to have a sustained tourist  
2 trade which trade will, in the long run, far outweigh any short-term  
3 economic gain by leasing these facilities to the immediate highest bidder  
4 rather than on the basis of the services which they will provide the camping  
5 public;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct  
7 the Division of Lands, Department of Natural Resources to either drop all  
8 charges on state owned and operated camping facilities or to make all  
9 charges uniform throughout the state commensurate with services provided;  
10 and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the division be directed to consider not only the  
12 short-term economic benefit to the state in the leasing of camping sites but  
13 to also consider the far more important aspect of leasing to municipalities  
14 for free or at-cost camper use.