

Introduced: 3/30/72  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the accessibility and

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usability of buildings and facili-

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ties at the University of Alaska by

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physically handicapped students.

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

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WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Legislature that the build-

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ings on the University of Alaska's Anchorage Community College campus are

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inaccessible to or unusable by physically handicapped students: (1) en-

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trances are so constructed that students in wheelchairs cannot enter and

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exit a building by themselves; (2) there are no elevators or ramps to the

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second floor of the two-story buildings, preventing a physically handicapped

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person from attending classes in those areas; (3) many buildings may be

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entered only by stairs for there are no ramps; (4) restrooms are without

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grasp bars and other apparatus enabling physically handicapped students to

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use them; and

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WHEREAS in the new University of Alaska/Alaska Methodist University

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Consortium Library Building presently under construction, although there will

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be elevators to the upper floors, there will be no ramp enabling students in

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wheelchairs to enter the building, and there are no elevators included in

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two other two-story buildings presently under construction on the Anchorage

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Community College campus; and

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WHEREAS both federal and state law require that in the planning and

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construction of public buildings state agencies, under the supervision of the

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Department of Public Works, are required to insure that public buildings and

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facilities are accessible to, and usable by, the physically handicapped; and

1 WHEREAS it is apparent that the University of Alaska has overlooked the  
2 requirements of AS 35.15.015 in the construction of buildings and facilities  
3 at the Anchorage campus of the University;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska directs the  
5 Board of Regents to take the following action:

6 (1) immediately eliminate those architectural barriers in build-  
7 ings under construction on all campuses of the University that limit or  
8 preclude accessibility by physically handicapped students by issuing change  
9 orders in the construction contracts where required;

10 (2) contract with the Department of Public Works for a complete  
11 survey of all University buildings on each campus and at each community col-  
12 lege to determine if the structures and facilities are in compliance with  
13 AS 35.15.015 and to secure federal funds from the Office of Vocational Re-  
14 habilitation or any other federal or private source to enable expeditious  
15 modification of existing structures and facilities to ensure compliance with  
16 both federal and state law;

17 (3) review all plans for future construction throughout the state  
18 university system to ensure full compliance with federal and state laws to  
19 eliminate those architectural barriers that deny access to the University's  
20 buildings and facilities by physically handicapped students, or limit their  
21 usability, and to secure federal funds where available for this purpose; and  
22 be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska  
24 is directed to report to the Legislature not later than the fifth calendar  
25 day of the Eighth Alaska Legislature, First Session, on the steps it has  
26 taken to comply with this resolution.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Dr. William R. Wood, Presi-  
28 dent of the University of Alaska; Mr. William A. O'Neill, President of the  
29 Board of Regents, and to each member of the Board; and to Mr. George W.

1 Easley, Commissioner of Public Works.

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