

Introduced: 4/12/72
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CS
2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 132

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the designation of Sitka
6 as the site of a regional school,
7 and to the provision of a secondary
8 school facility at Angoon.

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

10 WHEREAS the original regional school concept which envisioned a rela-
11 tively small number of very large dormitories in the major centers of the
12 state has been altered by changing philosophy; and

13 WHEREAS the concept of area and localized schools is becoming increasing-ly
14 popular; and

15 WHEREAS there have been many strong expressions of desire by school
16 patrons to have their children educated either in their home community or as
17 closely as possible to home to permit frequent visitation; and

18 WHEREAS recent judicial determinations have tended to reinforce the
19 concept of the right of a child to attend school in his community of resi-
20 dence; and

21 WHEREAS dormitory operations in addition to the disadvantages of the
22 institutional approach, are extremely expensive to operate with cost per
23 pupil approaching \$4,500 per year; and

24 WHEREAS continued pressure at the federal level to reduce funding for
25 such operations may place an increasing burden upon the state to assume
26 these operating costs; and

27 WHEREAS there are already in southeast Alaska 17 communities offering
28 secondary programs; and

29 WHEREAS the estimated maximum boarding students in southeast Alaska who

will not have direct daily access to secondary schools is not expected to
2 exceed between 120 - 130 pupils through the 1979 year; and

3 WHEREAS 53 potential secondary students are located in Angoon alone,
4 making possible a program larger than eight currently existing southeast
5 secondary schools; and

6 WHEREAS these small existing secondary schools have proven to be popu-
7 lar in their communities and receive strong support;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature requests the Alaska Depart-
9 ment of Education to rescind the designation of Sitka as a regional school
10 and planned construction funds be reallocated to provide a secondary facility
11 at Angoon; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature requests the Department
13 of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to reprogram the funds projected
14 for the dormitory in Sitka to provide at least two local or area schools
15 in communities where schools are now operated by the Bureau and have suffi-
16 cient enrollment to support secondary programs.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C.B.
18 Morton, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Louis Bruce, Commissioner
19 Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Honorable James Hawkins, Assistant Commissioner
20 for Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Honorable Morris Thompson, Area
21 Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
22 Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and to the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S.
23 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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