

Original sponsor: Health, Welfare  
and Education Committee

Offered: 4/14/72  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR 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 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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

11 WHEREAS the concept of area and localized schools is becoming increasingly  
12 popular; and

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS there are already in southeast Alaska 17 communities offering  
26 secondary programs; and

27 WHEREAS the estimated maximum boarding students in southeast Alaska who  
28 will not have direct daily access to secondary schools is not expected to  
29 exceed between 120 - 130 pupils through the 1979 year; and

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

3           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature requests the Alaska Depart-  
4 ment of Education to rescind the designation of Sitka as a regional school  
5 and planned construction funds be reallocated; and be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature requests the Department  
7 of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to reprogram the funds projected  
8 for the dormitory in Sitka.

9           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C.B.  
10 Morton, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Louis Bruce, Commissioner,  
11 Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Honorable James Hawkins, Assistant Commissioner  
12 for Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Honorable Morris Thompson, Area  
13 Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
14 Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and to the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S.  
15 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.