

Introduced: 4/25/72
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 134

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the impending reduction
6 of military forces in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS it has been announced by the Alaskan Command that the United
9 States Army will reduce its forces in Alaska generally, and in particular
10 at Ft. Wainwright, Fairbanks, by approximately one-third, from two battalion
11 strength to one, by June 30, 1973; and

12 WHEREAS the United States Navy shortly will abandon Kodiak Naval Station
13 to the United States Coast Guard, retreat to Seattle and leave the vast
14 Alaska sea frontier without a U.S. Naval presence; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska was the only continental North American territory of
16 the United States that was occupied by enemy forces during the greater part
17 of World WAR II; and

18 WHEREAS Alaska is located on the great circle air route from Asia and
19 on the trans-polar air route from Europe; and

20 WHEREAS the United States is winding down its military effort in
21 Southeast Asia thus making available military forces heretofore occupied in
22 combat duties for military defense purposes; and

23 WHEREAS due to Alaska's territorial expanse, its more lengthy coastline
24 than any other state in the union and its strategic geographic location in
25 relation to the world's great powers, this state is in need of greater
26 military protection and not less; and

27 WHEREAS in view of the state's experience in World War II, the Department
28 of Defense's policy toward the military defense of Alaska is one of calcu-
29 lated risk;

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the Department of Defense
2 and the Department of the Army are respectfully requested to re-examine the
3 pending reduction of armed forces in Alaska to determine whether such a
4 move is in the best interest of the nation's security and overall defense
5 posture.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Melvin R. Laird,
8 Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Robert F. Froehlke, Secretary of the
9 Army; General William Westmoreland, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army; and to
10 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and
11 the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska dele-
12 gation in Congress.
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