

Introduced: 5/9/72  
Referred: Health, Welfare  
and Education

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the designation of  
6 Sitka as the site of a regional  
7 school, and to the provision of a  
8 secondary school facility on  
9 Prince of Wales Island.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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

14 WHEREAS the concept of area and localized schools is becoming  
15 increasingly popular; and

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS the communities of Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg and Thorne Bay all  
29 are accessible to each other by road; and

1       WHEREAS the majority of the students in Southeast Alaska requiring a  
2 secondary school facility reside on Prince of Wales Island; and

3       WHEREAS a new sawmill operation is soon to be located in the town of  
4 Craig, thus expanding the economy of the area and enabling the Prince of  
5 Wales communities to support a secondary school facility;

6       BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that the Department of the Interior,  
7 Bureau of Indian Affairs, is respectfully requested to reprogram the funds  
8 projected for the dormitory in Sitka to provide at least two local or area  
9 schools in communities where schools are now operated by the Bureau and  
10 have sufficient enrollment to support secondary programs; and be it

11       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Department of Education is requested  
12 to rescind the designation of Sitka as a regional school and to provide a  
13 secondary school facility on Prince of Wales Island thus consolidating the  
14 school districts of Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg and Thorne Bay.

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