

Introduced: 1/26/73
Referred: Judiciary and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HARTIG, HUBER AND URION

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the delineation of the
6 territorial sea, contiguous zone and
7 certain internal waters of the United
8 States.

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

10 WHEREAS the coastline of Alaska meanders for approximately a total of
11 34,000 miles and represents over 50 per cent of the total United States sea-
12 coast; and

13 WHEREAS the International Convention of 1951 approved the measuring of
14 Norway's coastline by the straight baseline method; and

15 WHEREAS the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, in
16 1958, adopted the straight baseline method of delineating coastlines; and

17 WHEREAS the United States is a signatory to the Convention of the
18 Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone; and

19 WHEREAS Alaska's coastline is deeply indented and highly irregular and
20 otherwise meets the criteria established in the "Norway Fisheries Case" and
21 the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone for application of
22 the straight baseline method of measuring coastlines; and

23 WHEREAS, if the coastline of Alaska were measured by other than the
24 straight baseline method, where applicable, it could mean added disaster
25 for our state's fisheries as some waters historically defined as internal
26 waters of the state could be delimited as territorial sea or even international
27 waters; and

28 WHEREAS it is vital to the State of Alaska and the Nation that Alaska's
29 seaward boundaries be clearly defined as measured by the straight baseline

1 method where that method would be applicable;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature that the Governor is respectfully
3 requested to direct the Department of Natural Resources to immediately prepare
4 detailed maps of the state applying the straight baseline concept to the
5 coastline of Alaska; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED that at the earliest possible time after completion
7 of the maps that the Governor direct the Commissioner of Natural Resources,
8 and the Attorney General, or their designees, as well as a designee of the
9 Governor, together with one representative to be appointed by the Speaker of
10 the House and one senator to be appointed by the President of the Senate,
11 to travel to Washington, D. C.; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that while in Washington they work with Alaska's
13 Congressional delegation and with the Departments of State, Interior, and
14 Defense to persuade the federal government to permit Alaska's coastline to
15 be measured by the straight baseline method where that method would be
16 applicable.