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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to reduced fares on state
6 ferries for persons 65 years of age or
7 older.

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

9 WHEREAS many people in Alaska have worked long hard years for the day
10 when they could retire and spend their time traveling throughout the state;
11 and

12 WHEREAS the recent years of spiraling inflation have severely damaged
13 the financial status of the retired populace because of its fixed income;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, because of rising costs, many Alaskans cannot financially
16 afford to travel in the state and realize the dream that they have held and
17 worked for; and

18 WHEREAS, if the people of Alaska could lessen the financial burden for
19 senior Alaskans to travel and see our great state, they would provide a
20 noble service; and

21 WHEREAS the state has benefited immeasurably from efforts of those
22 citizens who have worked hard and have remained in Alaska; and

23 WHEREAS it is not unusual for other states and local governments to
24 grant senior citizens special benefits and gratuities: the City of Anchorage,
25 for example, grants residents 65 years of age and older reduced fares on
26 that community's local bus system, a program that is being widely employed
27 throughout the United States; and

28 WHEREAS, during the off-season fall, winter and spring months, the
29 state ferries frequently operate at less than full capacity; therefore,

1 encouraging travel by senior citizens would swell foot passenger traffic and
2 revenue at no significant increase in cost because the vessels of the Alaska
3 Marine Highway operate at a relatively high fixed cost whether "on line" or
4 not;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
6 the Governor to direct the division of marine transportation to initiate a
7 program whereby all persons 65 years of age and older may travel on state
8 ferries for no fare. This travel shall be on a space-available basis only
9 and not between two main-line points of embarkation.

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