

Introduced: 3/13/74
Referred: Health, Education & Social
Services and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to decentralized child-
6 care and training facilities.

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

8 WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services is proposing to
9 continue the operation of Alcantra Youth Camp at an increased budget and is
10 requesting capital additions in the amount of \$1.2 million; and

11 WHEREAS the legislature has already committed \$350,000 for capital de-
12 velopment at Alcantra Youth Camp; and

13 WHEREAS there is a current high vacancy rate in existing, private child-
14 care institutions that have similar programs to Alcantra; and

15 WHEREAS the effect of high vacancy rates in private child-care
16 institutions is to raise the cost to the state of purchasing care in those
17 facilities; and

18 WHEREAS the total tax dollar cost is higher in Alcantra than private
19 facilities; and

20 WHEREAS the effect of continuing to operate Alcantra Youth Camp is to
21 create an oversupply of institutional beds for children which forces the
22 cost to the state in private child-care institutions to rise sharply; and

23 WHEREAS private child-care institutions have historically provided
24 excellent caring services to children and have attempted to deliver those
25 services at the lowest possible cost consistent with good standards of
26 service; and

27 WHEREAS the trend in child welfare is away from centralized child-care
28 facilities and toward providing care in a child's own community in relatively
29 small child-care facilities; and

1 WHEREAS Alaska is already experiencing a public reaction against
2 removing children to distant schools for the purpose of education and can
3 expect a growing public rejection of the removal of children from their
4 communities for the purpose of receiving services; and

5 WHEREAS there is a demonstrated need for more funds to create local
6 services for children to keep them in a family setting; and

7 WHEREAS there is an additional need for preventive services which will
8 prevent family disintegration; and

9 WHEREAS private agencies are required to meet standards under Alaska
10 law and public institutions are not required to meet these same standards;
11 and

12 WHEREAS there are additional needs for the training of individuals
13 involved in foster home programs, in training foster parents, and training
14 and education of persons involved in working with children in established
15 facilities rather than building more institutions;

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
17 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Health and Social Services
18 to immediately develop plans for alternative child-care facilities rather
19 than an expansion of the Alcantra Youth Camp, and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the department institute an immediate feasibility
21 study as to the alternative uses of this facility which are more applicable
22 to current needs; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the \$350,000 previously allocated to the depart-
24 ment for a child-care facility in the Matanuska Valley be used to establish
25 a loan fund to assist local communities and regions to implement small,
26 decentralized, locally operated programs to meet demonstrated needs.
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