

Introduced: 3/13/73
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the definition of a
6 citizen of the United States.

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

8 WHEREAS in 1972 the State of Alaska established a commercial fishing
9 loan program under which the state would make direct loans to commercial
10 fishermen for the repair and rehabilitation of their fishing vessels; and

11 WHEREAS the Act establishing the program requires that a loan be secured
12 by a first lien; and

13 WHEREAS under the Ship Mortgage Act of 1920 (46 USC secs. 911-984), in
14 order to obtain a preferred ship mortgage, it is required that the mortgagee
15 be a "citizen of the United States"; and

16 WHEREAS there is a degree of ambiguity and uncertainty as to whether a
17 state of the United States is a "citizen" within the meaning of that term as
18 it is used in the Ship Mortgage Act of 1920; and

19 WHEREAS the state stands ready to make loans to commercial fishermen
20 under the state's commercial fishing loan program on the security of pre-
21 ferred ships mortgages as soon as the uncertainty as to the state's status
22 as a "citizen" is resolved;

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the
24 United States is requested to amend the Ship Mortgage Act of 1920 to include
25 a state within the definition of a "citizen" in 46 USC sec. 922(a)(55) for
26 purposes of the Ship Mortgage Act of 1920.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
28 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and to the Honorable Don Young,
29 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.