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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

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2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the Secretary of the United  
6 States Department of Transportation to  
7 transfer Southeast Alaska from the Pacific  
8 Standard Time Zone to the Yukon Standard  
9 Time Zone.

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

11 WHEREAS, alone among the 50 states, Alaska spans four time zones; there  
12 is a three-hour time differential between Ketchikan and Nome; and

13 WHEREAS, historically, the location of Southeast Alaska in the Pacific  
14 Standard Time Zone stems from territorial days when Southeastern's orienta-  
15 tion -- commerce and finance, transportation, government and other social  
16 and economic contacts -- was primarily with Seattle; and

17 WHEREAS from the standpoint of geography most of Southeast Alaska  
18 actually is located between or adjacent to those meridians of longitude west  
19 of Greenwich designated as the Yukon Standard Time Zone rather than in those  
20 designated as the Pacific Standard Time Zone; and

21 WHEREAS Southeastern's present locus in the westernmost and northernmost  
22 segment of the Pacific Standard Time Zone distorts the time for sunrise and  
23 sunset the year around by comparison to other areas within the same time  
24 zone; and

25 WHEREAS the present two-hour time differential between Southeastern  
26 Alaska and Anchorage, Fairbanks and the communities of the Kenai Peninsula  
27 and Prince William Sound creates confusion and difficulty in achieving and  
28 maintaining sound commercial, efficient governmental and satisfying personal  
29 communications; and

1       WHEREAS the reduction of this time differential to but one hour between  
2 the state capital and the centers of finance, trade and commerce in South-  
3 central and Interior Alaska would resolve one of Alaska's most compelling  
4 needs: the elimination of artificial barriers that impair efforts to improve  
5 communications, thus welding together the widely scattered population centers  
6 of this vast and varied state and bringing state government closer to all the  
7 people of Alaska; and

8       WHEREAS "with due regard to the convenience of commerce and the junction  
9 and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate and foreign  
10 commerce," the transfer of Southeast Alaska to the Yukon Standard Time Zone  
11 would foster "adherence to a greater uniformity of time" within the State of  
12 Alaska and place southeasterners on a time schedule one hour nearer to that  
13 by which most Alaskans go about their daily lives, neither inconveniencing  
14 the traveler, the transportation industry, nor other commercial enterprise  
15 with important connections both in Alaska and the "lower 48;" and

16       WHEREAS federal law (15 U.S.C. secs. 260-267; 49 U.S.C. sec. 1655(e)(5))  
17 regulates the time on which all federal offices and common carriers engaged  
18 in interstate and foreign commerce operate and grants to the U. S. Secretary  
19 of Transportation the authority to redefine the boundaries of time zones that  
20 serve the entire United States.

21       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature requests the Secretary of the  
22 United States Department of Transportation to redefine the boundaries of the  
23 time zone in which Southeastern Alaska is located and to shift it from the  
24 Pacific Standard Time Zone into the Yukon Standard Time Zone at the earliest  
25 date possible.

26       COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Mr. Claude Brinegar, Secretary  
27 U. S. Department of Transportation, and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
28 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.  
29 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.