

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST
OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE
WICKERSHAM AFFAIR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting an investigation of the
6 Department of Public Works, Division
7 of Marine Transportation concerning
8 the construction of the M/V COLUMBIA.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

10 WHEREAS it is evident that the M/V COLUMBIA, heralded as the replacement
11 vessel for the M/V WICKERSHAM, will not be delivered to the State of Alaska
12 to enable it to make its first sailing on the Inside Passage from Seattle to
13 Skagway as scheduled on May 31; and

14 WHEREAS in view of the impending sale of the M/V WICKERSHAM it is
15 imperative that the public and the legislature be fully informed as to the
16 reasons for the delay of the COLUMBIA's entry into service in the state ferry
17 system because it seems apparent that during the hiatus between the delivery
18 of the WICKERSHAM to her new owners and the initial run of the COLUMBIA,
19 passenger and vehicle traffic on the Alaska Marine Highway's Southeastern
20 division will be delayed, reservations cancelled, and otherwise discommoded;
21 and

22 WHEREAS an investigation of the practices and procedures of the Division
23 of Marine Transportation in the award and management of the contract for the
24 construction of the M/V COLUMBIA, although not alleviating the potential
25 "traffic jam" on the marine highway during the heavily traveled summer months,
26 at least would both inform the public and the legislature and, hopefully,
27 preclude such delays in the future;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests
29 the Budget and Audit Committee direct the Legislative Finance Division to

1 conduct a thorough investigation into the management of the Division of Marine
2 Transportation, Department of Public Works, with respect to all aspects of
3 the construction of the M/V COLUMBIA including but not limited to the original
4 contract costs, cost overruns, and the nature of them, change orders, total
5 final cost of construction, the principal reason or reasons for the delay in
6 delivery of the vessel, any sacrifices in quality, kind of equipment and
7 facilities that appear to be unreasonable, and a determination of (1) pre-
8 cisely when the ferry will be delivered to the state and when it will be in
9 service, and (2) the loss of revenue to the state ferry system that will occur
10 because of the sale and transfer of ownership of the M/V WICKERSHAM before the
11 delivery of the M/V COLUMBIA; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Finance Division is respectfully
13 requested to make its report to the House of Representatives not later than
14 30 days after adjournment of the Eighth Legislature, Second Session.