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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the telecommunications policy  
6 of the state.

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

8 WHEREAS the communications needs of the state have never been adequately  
9 met because of the large extent and size of the state, the engineering and  
10 technical problems inherent in development of an adequate system under the  
11 previous state of the art; and

12 WHEREAS communications planning and policy are of vital and continuing  
13 interest to the public of the state, affecting the lives and personal welfare  
14 of the citizens at all levels of activity, in both urban and rural areas;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS recent technological advances have rendered feasible improvements  
17 in Alaska's communications network not previously available; and

18 WHEREAS chief among those advances has been the development of a highly  
19 sophisticated and practical applied science relating to the use of synchronous-  
20 orbit communications satellites in conjunction with earthbound transmitting  
21 and receiving stations; and

22 WHEREAS the longlines long distance telephone carrier has recently  
23 proposed methods of serving the long-term communications needs of the state  
24 applying this advanced technology; and

25 WHEREAS both the state and federal governments are likely to be the  
26 major telecommunications users and customers in any expanded statewide com-  
27 munications network; and

28 WHEREAS the method of development and construction of a statewide system  
29 of satellite earth stations will determine the quality of future communications

1 in Alaska for the next several decades; and

2 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has been investigating several alternative  
3 methods of assuring the protection of the public interest and the continued  
4 effective participation of the state in the long-range planning that will  
5 govern that development; and

6 WHEREAS one alternative would provide that procurement, construction,  
7 ownership and operation of satellite earth stations be entirely accomplished  
8 by the private longlines carrier with the state acting in an advisory capacity  
9 under terms of a contract of questionable enforceability; and

10 WHEREAS one other alternative would provide that procurement, construc-  
11 tion and ownership be accomplished by the state, providing the state with  
12 permanent proprietary participation in telecommunications planning and policy;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, while the Legislature of the State of Alaska does not wish the  
15 state to become extensively involved in the operations of the state's tele-  
16 communications network, it does find state ownership of satellite earth  
17 stations necessary and in the public interest;

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska that the  
19 Governor is strongly urged to expeditiously proceed with the steps necessary  
20 to facilitate acquisition and installation of satellite earth stations in  
21 numbers and according to specifications that have already been determined by  
22 the Governor's Office of Telecommunications in consultation with the long-  
23 lines carrier.