

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY H. BEIRNE

2 CS HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSTION

5 Requesting the extension of "800" toll-
6 free telephone numbers to Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS, historically, due to geographical considerations, a sparse
9 population and distance, Alaska has been deprived of a variety of services,
10 facilities, and opportunities available in her sister states; and

11 WHEREAS the lack of comprehensive, integrated communications services
12 long has hampered Alaskans in their personal and commercial interactions,
13 and has had an adverse impact on the state's economic development; and

14 WHEREAS one communications service unavailable to Alaskans is the long
15 distance telephone toll-free calling system commonly known as the "800"
16 numbers; and

17 WHEREAS these "800" series telephone numbers enable individuals anywhere
18 in the continental United States to telephone, toll-free, businesses, govern-
19 mental agencies and other organizations to obtain information, make reserva-
20 tions, conduct business and other transactions; and

21 WHEREAS the unavailability of this "800" service results in daily
22 personal inconvenience, business delays and hardships as well as loss of
23 economic opportunities and benefits; and

24 WHEREAS the connection of Alaska to the "800" toll-free long distance
25 telephone services would immeasurably enhance tourism in the state by enabling
26 Alaskans as well as prospective travelers to "The Great Land" to make reser-
27 vations with hotels and other places of public accommodations, as well as
28 with the Alaska Marine Highway, our unique state ferry system, in an expedi-
29 tious manner; and

1 WHEREAS, at the outset, an "800" telephone number should be installed at
2 the Alaska Marine Highway office at the state ferry terminal, Pier 48, in
3 Seattle, immediately for use starting with this year's tourist season; this
4 procedure can be accomplished within one week of application; and

5 WHEREAS RCA Alascom, Inc., the long distance communications common
6 carrier serving Alaska, operates under a certificate of public interest, con-
7 venience and necessity; and

8 WHEREAS connection of Alaska's telephone system to the "800" toll-free,
9 long distance telephone system requires a tariff agreement between RCA Alas-
10 com, Inc., and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
12 respectfully requested to direct the Office of Telecommunications to initiate
13 whatever action is required to ensure that RCA Alascom, Inc., will make the
14 necessary rate and tariff arrangements with American Telephone and Telegraph
15 Company to permit Alaskans to use the toll-free "800" long distance telephone
16 service; that RCA Alascom be requested to obtain whatever additional equipment
17 is necessary to connect Alaska to the AT&T "800" calling system; and that
18 RCA Alascom be requested to take this action immediately to enable Alaskans
19 to use the "800" telephone numbers during the summer of 1976; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct
21 the Commissioner of Public Works and the director, division of marine trans-
22 portation, to arrange for the installation of an "800" series telephone
23 number at Pier 48, the Alaska Marine Highway terminal in Seattle, at the
24 earliest possible date to facilitate the reservations and communications
25 system for the state ferries during the 1976 tourist season.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the President of RCA Alascom,
27 Inc., and to the President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.
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