

Original sponsor: Rules Committee

Offered: 5/10/76
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Food Stamp Program.

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

7 WHEREAS the rural residents of Alaska are poorly served by the Food
8 Stamp Program due to lengthy delays between the time of application for
9 benefits and final determination of eligibility for the program, averaging
10 four to six weeks and sometimes three months; and

11 WHEREAS this delay is due to the complexity of the eligibility forms,
12 which often results in a request for more information from the eligibility
13 worker; the remoteness of many rural villages and the uncertain and infre-
14 quent communication with many of those villages, which impedes rapid comple-
15 tion of the application process; and the centralization of the administration
16 of the state's Food Stamp Program, which exacerbates the problems of com-
17 munication with program recipients; and

18 WHEREAS the local fee agent system for gathering eligibility information
19 has suffered in the past because the agents have been poorly trained or have
20 not been paid;

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully re-
22 quests the Governor to direct the commissioner of health and social services
23 to remedy these problems by devising an easy to read and understand, mail-
24 order, rural oriented application; by developing and maintaining a strong fee
25 agent system to expedite the application process; by making eligibility
26 determinations on all applications within one week of the date of applica-
27 tion; and, finally, by affording rural residents through a pilot project the
28 opportunity to obtain food stamps in village post offices or through the
29 village council.

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