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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY POLAND

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the training of marine pilots
6 in the handling of oil tankers and the
7 establishment of a state maritime academy.

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

9 WHEREAS the economic vitality of the State of Alaska is heavily dependent
10 upon maritime commerce connecting it via the ocean's shipping lanes to the
11 continental United States; and

12 WHEREAS the nation's economic health, as well, relies on marine traffic,
13 particularly with respect to the transportation of energy-related cargos; and

14 WHEREAS it has been well-documented that the "marine leg" of the trans-
15 Alaska oil pipeline will involve the use of oil tankers and other common
16 carriers engaged in the marine transportation of oil, petroleum products and
17 their by-products of huge size and great complexity in terms of their opera-
18 tion; and

19 WHEREAS these mammoth marine common carriers will require highly skilled
20 and specially trained officers and crews to ensure their safe and competent
21 handling; and

22 WHEREAS it is therefore critically important to ensure the protection
23 of the public, the valuable fisheries, and the coastal environment of this
24 state, our Canadian neighbors and our sister states along the Pacific Coast
25 that these merchant mariners be fully qualified to handle the sophisticated,
26 complex vessels in the frequently unpredictable meteorological and maritime
27 conditions that are peculiar to the Gulf of Alaska and to the other coastal
28 and inside coastal waters of the state; and

29 WHEREAS, historically, the states have been responsible for the licensing

1 of marine pilots engaged in the handling of vessels entering, navigating and
2 departing a state's waters; and

3 WHEREAS, at present, neither Alaska nor any other state has any special
4 training or licensing requirements certifying as to the competency of marine
5 pilots, or other merchant marine officers and crews, to pilot or handle the
6 huge supertankers that will frequent the ports and harbors of this state to
7 transport our crude oil and other petroleum products throughout the world;

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
9 respectfully requested to direct the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
10 Education and the Board of Marine Pilots to cooperate in the conduct of a
11 feasibility study or studies

12 (1) leading to the establishment of a school or course of system-
13 atic training in the handling of oil tankers and other common carriers
14 engaged in the marine transportation of oil, petroleum products and their by-
15 products, particularly in the piloting of vessels of 40,000 deadweight tons
16 or more; and

17 (2) focusing on the establishment of a state-operated maritime
18 academy, comparable to that presently operated by the State of California at
19 Vallejo, using the facilities of the former U.S. Navy base, and now the U.S.
20 Coast Guard Base, at Kodiak as the site for the academy, seeking the advice
21 and counsel of the United States Coast Guard in the conduct of this study, as
22 well as other interested state and federal agencies.

23 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William T.
24 Coleman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; Admiral O.W.
25 Siler, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Glenn O. Thompson,
26 Commander, 17th U.S. Coast Guard District; the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson,
27 Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce; the Honorable Leonor K. Sullivan,
28 Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Alaska
29 Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the Board of Marine Pilots; and to

1 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and
2 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
3 tion in Congress.

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