

Introduced: 1/19/76  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY POLAND AND CROFT

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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NINTH LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the training of marine pilots

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in the handling of oil tankers and the

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establishment of a state maritime academy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, historically, the states have been responsible for the licen-

1 sing of marine pilots engaged in the handling of vessels entering, navigating  
2 and 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 and

9 WHEREAS, under existing Alaska law, the governor has the authority to  
10 enter into an agreement with the Federal Maritime Administration to provide  
11 for an Alaska Maritime Academy;

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

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

21 (2) focusing on the establishment of a state-operated maritime  
22 academy, comparable to that presently operated by the State of California at  
23 Vallejo, using the facilities of the former U.S. Navy base, and now the U.S.  
24 Coast Guard base, at Kodiak as the site for the academy, seeking the advice  
25 and counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard in the conduct of this study, as well as  
26 other interested state and federal agencies; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the study demonstrates the feasibility of  
28 establishing a state maritime academy, the Governor is respectfully requested  
29 to enter into an agreement with the Federal Maritime Administration to

1 provide for an Alaska Maritime Academy in accordance with AS 44.19.115.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William T.  
3 Coleman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; Admiral O.W.  
4 Siler, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral John B. Hayes, Commander,  
5 17th U.S. Coast Guard District; the Honorable Elliott L. Richardson, Secre-  
6 tary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson,  
7 Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce; the Honorable Leonor K. Sulli-  
8 van, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the  
9 Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the Board of Marine Pilots;  
10 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators,  
11 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
12 delegation in Congress.

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