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COTTEN, ELIASON, FREEMAN,  
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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 382

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Depart-  
7 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities to extend  
8 the marine highway system; and providing for an effec-  
9 tive date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 \* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that

12 (1) the quality of life, and the ability to maintain a community  
13 at a given location, depends greatly on the movement of freight and people in  
14 and out of that community; this proposition is particularly true in rural  
15 Alaska, where substandard housing and subsistence are directly attributable  
16 to either the inability to receive or the high cost of securing lumber, fuel  
17 and food;

18 (2) the villages of Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula are  
19 without surface transportation by a public highway or regular service by  
20 surface common carrier;

21 (3) a need exists for adequate surface transportation for the  
22 transshipment of food, fuel, construction materials, vehicles and general  
23 freight in order to reduce the costs of living;

24 (4) the ready accessibility by water to communities of Kodiak  
25 Island and the Alaska Peninsula, supplemented by existing and proposed  
26 aviation facilities, precludes the need for extensive construction of roads  
27 on the island and peninsula, but suggests the need for implementing a mod-  
28 erate, economically sound extension of the Alaska Marine Highway System;

29 (5) extension of the marine highway system to include regular

1 service to communities around Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula is  
2 economically and socially warranted, beneficial, and desirable; operation  
3 costs of such a system appear favorable to the benefits derived; the exten-  
4 sion of the system appears preferable to subsidization of a private carrier;  
5 vessel service could, in slack periods, be extended to assist in serving  
6 other southcentral and southeastern Alaska communities;

7 (6) a vessel capable of carrying 600 tons of freight and about 16  
8 passengers appears to be sufficient for provision of services to Kodiak  
9 Island and Alaska Peninsula communities.

10 \* Sec. 2. The sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to  
11 the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, division of water and  
12 harbors, for the purpose of extending the marine highway system to serve  
13 Kodiak Island and Alaska Peninsula communities. The appropriation shall be  
14 allocated in the following manner;

15 (1) to purchase and equip a utility freight and passenger ferry,  
16 \$2,000,000;

17 (2) to modify existing docks at Kodiak Island and Alaska Peninsula  
18 communities, \$1,000,000.

19 \* Sec. 3. The appropriation made by this Act is for capital projects and  
20 is subject to the provisions of AS 37.25.020.

21 \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
22 070(c).