

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MALONE

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*CS* HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26 *AMS*

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to determinations of eligibility

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for food stamps.

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

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WHEREAS the present system of determining eligibility for food stamps

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has resulted in excessive delays for applicants; and

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WHEREAS excessive delay in being able to obtain food stamps imposes a

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severe hardship on people who need them to live; and

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WHEREAS a major cause of delay in determining eligibility is the practice

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of making final decisions in Juneau rather than in the local offices of the

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Department of Health and Social Services; and

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WHEREAS this practice necessitates sending materials to Juneau and then

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back to the local offices; and

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WHEREAS the delay caused by this practice is increased for residents of

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rural Alaska, where mail service is infrequent and unreliable; and

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WHEREAS delay is further increased when the department determines that a

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second interview with the applicant is required; and

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WHEREAS the authority to make final determinations of eligibility for

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food stamps would seem to be a matter that could safely be entrusted to the

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local offices;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is

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respectfully requested to direct the Commissioner of Health and Social

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Services to delegate to the local offices of the department the authority to

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make final determinations of eligibility to obtain food stamps.

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