

Original sponsor: Malone

Offered: 4/15/77
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26 am S

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to determinations of eligibility
6 for food stamps.

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

8 WHEREAS the present system of determining eligibility for food stamps
9 has resulted in excessive delays for applicants; and

10 WHEREAS excessive delay in being able to obtain food stamps imposes a
11 severe hardship on people who need them to live; and

12 WHEREAS a major cause of delay in determining eligibility is the practice
13 of making final decisions in one of 10 decision-making offices in Alaska
14 rather than in the local offices of the Department of Health and Social
15 Services; and

16 WHEREAS this practice necessitates sending materials to one of 10
17 decision-making offices in Alaska and then back to the local offices; and

18 WHEREAS the delay caused by this practice is increased for residents of
19 rural Alaska, where mail service is infrequent and unreliable; and

20 WHEREAS delay is further increased when the department determines that a
21 second interview with the applicant is required; and

22 WHEREAS the authority to make final determinations of eligibility for
23 food stamps would seem to be a matter that could safely be entrusted to the
24 local offices;

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
26 respectfully requested to direct the Commissioner of Health and Social
27 Services, with existing personnel and funds, to delegate to the local public
28 assistance offices of the department the authority to make final determina-
29 tions of food stamp eligibility in immediate food need situations as

1 defined in the department's position paper of March 24, 1977.

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