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Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to private higher education
6 in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS all Alaskans should have a broad spectrum of opportunity for
9 higher education of genuine excellence; and

10 WHEREAS our American history has been marked by the singular and sus-
11 tained contribution made by private colleges and universities, especially in
12 the development of the American frontier; and

13 WHEREAS public and private colleges and universities complement each
14 other in ways which strengthen our nation and contribute to improved quality,
15 economics and innovations in education; and

16 WHEREAS the partnership of public and private higher education in pro-
17 viding excellence in education with meaningful alternatives serves the in-
18 terest of the student and the state; and

19 WHEREAS the existence in Alaska of private colleges and universities
20 encourages more students to attend college in the state, thus making their
21 leadership and talent available to Alaskan communities and the state; and

22 WHEREAS private universities can provide education in the liberal arts
23 with less need for specialization, thereby broadening the students' world
24 view and cultural awareness which is especially needed in Alaska with our
25 diverse cultures and languages and our important geographic position con-
26 necting east and west; and

27 WHEREAS Alaska's history has been marked by the imaginative and sacrifi-
28 cial leadership of the private sector in creating, 100 years ago, our state's
29 first college, Sheldon Jackson, and incorporating, a day before Alaska was

1 declared a state, Alaska Methodist University; and

2 WHEREAS mounting costs and changing moods of public policy and support
3 have placed new and awesome burdens on these private institutions; and

4 WHEREAS it is in the best interests of public policy concerning the
5 future of our youth, the integrity of our pluralistic system of public-
6 private institutions, the provision of viable options for our students,
7 insurance of investments already made, and proper encouragement of private
8 sector support from corporations, individuals, and foundations which might
9 otherwise interpret their tax support as sufficient, to properly declare and
10 support the need for our dual system for the future of Alaska;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature recognizes the significant role that
12 private universities play in our state, declares its appreciation for the
13 past contributions of these institutions, their special importance for the
14 future of Alaskan higher education, and, taking note of their special and
15 urgent need for support from the private sector, commends this appropriate
16 support, particularly from those persons and organizations benefiting par-
17 ticularly from the resources, natural and human, of Alaska.