

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY PHILLIPS

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the Secretary of the Department
6 of Transportation to transfer Southeast
7 Alaska from the Pacific Standard Time Zone
8 to the Yukon Standard Time Zone.

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

10 WHEREAS, alone among the 50 states, Alaska spans four time zones; there
11 is a three-hour time differential between Ketchikan and Nome; and

12 WHEREAS, historically, the location of Southeast Alaska in the Pacific
13 Standard Time Zone stems from territorial days when Southeastern's orienta-
14 tion -- commerce and finance, transportation, government, and other social
15 and economic contacts -- was primarily with Seattle; and

16 WHEREAS from the standpoint of geography most of Southeast Alaska
17 actually is located between or adjacent to those meridians of longitude west
18 of Greenwich designated as the Yukon Standard Time Zone rather than in those
19 designated as the Pacific Standard Time Zone; and

20 WHEREAS Southeastern's present locus in the westernmost and northernmost
21 segment of the Pacific Standard Time Zone distorts the time for sunrise and
22 sunset the year around by comparison to other areas within the same time
23 zone; and

24 WHEREAS the present two-hour time differential between Southeast Alaska
25 and Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the communities of the Kenai Peninsula and
26 Prince William Sound creates confusion and difficulty in achieving and main-
27 taining sound commercial, efficient governmental, and satisfying personal
28 communications; and

29 WHEREAS the elimination of this time differential between the existing

1 state capital and the centers of finance, trade and commerce and the future
2 state capital in Southcentral and Interior Alaska would resolve one of
3 Alaska's most compelling needs: the elimination of artificial barriers that
4 impair efforts to improve communications, thus welding together the widely
5 scattered population centers of this vast and varied state and bringing state
6 government closer to all the people of Alaska; and

7 WHEREAS, if those portions of the state most closely related by trade
8 and commerce were all placed on the time schedule presently named the Yukon
9 Standard Time Zone, the inconvenience and disruption of the change would be
10 minimized; and

11 WHEREAS "with due regard to the convenience of commerce and the junction
12 and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate and foreign
13 commerce," the transfer of all those portions of the state outside the Bering
14 Time Zone into one time zone would foster "adherence to a greater uniformity
15 of time" within the State of Alaska and place southeasterners on the same
16 time schedule by which most Alaskans go about their daily lives, neither
17 inconveniencing the traveler, the transportation industry, nor other commer-
18 cial enterprise with important connections both in Alaska and the "lower 48";
19 and

20 WHEREAS federal law (15 U.S.C. secs. 260-267; 49 U.S.C. sec. 1655(e)(5))
21 regulates the time on which all federal offices and common carriers engaged
22 in interstate and foreign commerce operate and grants to the United States
23 Secretary of Transportation the authority to redefine the boundaries of time
24 zones that serve the entire United States;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Secretary
26 of the Department of Transportation to redefine the boundaries of the Yukon
27 Standard Time Zone in such a manner that all those portions of the state out-
28 side the Bering Time Zone are shifted into it at the earliest date possible;
29 and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Transportation is requested to
2 rename the newly created zone the Alaska Standard Time Zone.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the Depart-
4 ment of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
5 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representa-
6 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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