

Introduced: 1/24/78
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

BY ANDERSON, GUY,
AKERS AND SCHAEFFER

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the size of food stamp allot-
6 ments in the rural areas of Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS the purpose of the federal food stamp program is to insure that
9 adequate nourishment is available to all Americans; and

10 WHEREAS the size of the food stamp allotment is based on cost-of-living
11 figures developed by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

12 WHEREAS food stamp allotments for all Alaska are based on cost-of-living
13 figures for the city of Anchorage, despite the considerable variation in the
14 cost of living between Anchorage and the rural areas of the state; and

15 WHEREAS food costs in Bethel are over 40 per cent higher than those in
16 Anchorage, and a similar situation exists in other areas of rural Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS for this reason the food stamp recipient in those areas is able
18 to purchase far fewer groceries than a recipient in Anchorage or in the rest
19 of the nation; and

20 WHEREAS this situation works a hardship of considerable magnitude in
21 Bethel, where 70 per cent of the people have incomes within the federal
22 poverty income guidelines, and in the many other rural areas of the state
23 similarly situated; and

24 WHEREAS in these areas of high cost of living and high incidence of
25 poverty there is in effect a frustration of the purpose of the food stamp
26 program in relation to the eligible residents of those areas; and

27 WHEREAS repeated efforts of the Alaska congressional delegation and the
28 Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to get the U. S. Department
29 of Agriculture to consider the cost-of-living differential between the urban

1 and rural areas of the state have not resulted in any policy change by that
2 department, despite the fact that cost-of-living information is available
3 from the University of Alaska;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State House of Representatives that it
5 respectfully requests the Department of Agriculture to join with the Bureau
6 of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor; the Alaska Department of
7 Labor, and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to determine
8 the cost of living in the rural areas of Alaska, and to adjust food stamp
9 allotments accordingly.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
11 President of the United States; the Honorable Bob Bergland, Secretary of
12 Agriculture; the Honorable Julius Shiskin, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor
13 Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
14 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators; and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.
15 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.