

Original sponsor: Sackett

Offered: 5/20/77  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a legislative teleconferencing  
6 network.

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

8 WHEREAS the use of teleconferencing has been demonstrated to be useful  
9 and desirable in broadening the two-way contact between constituents and  
10 legislators; and

11 WHEREAS increased use of teleconferencing can extend legislative respon-  
12 siveness to the public and can increase public confidence in the legislature;

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislative  
14 Council is directed to form a Legislative Teleconferencing Network Task Force  
15 based upon the following criteria:

16 (1) The chairman of the Legislative Council shall be the chairman  
17 of the task force.

18 (2) The chairman of the Legislative Council shall appoint five  
19 members to the task force from the legislature to represent the reasonable  
20 needs of the legislature which a teleconferencing network must recognize in  
21 order to be successful. Preference shall be given to those legislators  
22 who represent communities receiving the first teleconferencing centers or  
23 who are committee chairmen; however, no more than one legislator from each  
24 community may be appointed to the task force.

25 (3) The Legislative Council shall request the Alaska Public Broad-  
26 casting Commission to appoint members to the task force to represent the  
27 reasonable needs of communities which a teleconferencing network must recog-  
28 nize in order to be successful. These members shall be appointed in accor-  
29 dance with the following guidelines:

1 (A) an equal number of members, representing the communities  
2 from which they are chosen, shall be chosen from each of the communities  
3 receiving the first teleconferencing centers;

4 (B) each member shall have demonstrated an involvement in  
5 community affairs and a commitment to increasing citizen participation  
6 in policy making;

7 (C) no member may have a financial interest in the tele-  
8 communications industry;

9 (4) The task force shall have no more than 20 members; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the task force is to make recommen-  
11 dations to the Legislative Council concerning a system design for a tele-  
12 conferencing network based on the following guidelines:

13 (1) The system shall operate in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks,  
14 Juneau, and Nome with allowance for expansion into other communities in the  
15 future as those other communities develop the necessary technical capabilities

16 (2) The system shall provide residents of the communities affected  
17 with an easy-to-use means of participating in legislative committee hearings  
18 and obtaining information about legislation.

19 (3) The system shall be a closed circuit system with transmission  
20 between the capital and centrally located community teleconferencing centers  
21 in the communities affected. Constituents wishing to testify shall report to  
22 these community teleconferencing centers in accordance with recommendations  
23 made by the task force.

24 (4) The system shall be operational by January 15, 1978.

25 (5) The task force shall consider both technical and managerial  
26 components of the system drawing upon the expertise of the state office of  
27 telecommunications and any legislative committee on telecommunications and  
28 make reasonable compromises in the event of conflicting needs of user groups;  
29 and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted or  
2 construed as regulating any broadcasting entity, public or private, or in any  
3 manner interfering with efforts of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission  
4 to provide timely legislative news coverage; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that it is not the purpose of this resolution to pro-  
6 vide a system for broadcasting committee hearings directly into people's  
7 homes, although that option may be made available to local broadcasters if  
8 they determine that local interest warrants it; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council shall receive the recom-  
10 mendations of the task force and, subject to the Council's approval, transmit  
11 them to the Legislative Affairs Agency for implementation and administration;  
12 and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency may contract with  
14 the state office of telecommunications or other source of technical expertise  
15 for the implementation of the recommended program; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that once operational the system shall be administered  
17 by the Legislative Affairs Agency and when feasible the Legislative Affairs  
18 Agency may make the system available to other governmental agencies on a  
19 reimbursable costs basis; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency shall carry out a  
21 program of public education and encouragement relating to the use of the  
22 legislative teleconferencing network system.

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