

Introduced: 2/28/78
Referred: State Affairs and
Commerce

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to ownership of satellite
6 earth stations in rural Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS communications planning and policy are of vital and continuing
9 interest to the public of the state, affecting the lives and personal welfare
10 of the citizens at all levels of activity, in both urban and rural areas; and

11 WHEREAS recent technological advances have rendered feasible improve-
12 ments in Alaska's communications network not previously available; and

13 WHEREAS chief among those advances has been the development of a highly
14 sophisticated and practical applied science relating to the use of synchro-
15 nous-orbit communications satellites in conjunction with earthbound trans-
16 mitting and receiving stations; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of these factors, the legislature resolved in
18 House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 in 1975 to urge the Governor, through his
19 Office of Telecommunications, to acquire and install satellite earth stations
20 in consultation with the long lines carrier; and

21 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, the Governor's
22 Office of Telecommunications and the long lines carrier entered into a series
23 of three agreements providing for the installation, operation, and mainte-
24 nance of 100 small earth stations in the bush areas of Alaska by the long
25 lines carrier; and

26 WHEREAS the construction of the 100 small earth stations has been con-
27 cluded, bringing the benefits of modern satellite communications to the
28 remote areas of the state, and thereby achieving the goals and purposes of
29 the legislature motivating the passage of, and expressed in, House Concurrent

1 Resolution No. 60; and

2 WHEREAS a new era of expanded telecommunications service in the bush has
3 begun with the advent of local exchange service in areas now served only by
4 small earth stations of the long lines carrier; and

5 WHEREAS interconnection between the long lines carrier and a local ex-
6 change telephone company will provide the citizens of the remote areas of the
7 state with telecommunications of a local, state, national and international
8 nature; and

9 WHEREAS the long lines carrier has declared to the appropriate state and
10 federal regulatory agencies its readiness, willingness, and ability to pro-
11 vide the monetary and physical resources necessary to provide such services
12 to the local exchange companies, and to reimburse the state on an equitable
13 basis for the capital sums previously expended by it pertaining to the 100
14 small earth stations; and

15 WHEREAS the legislature believes the sums so reimbursed to it by the
16 long lines carrier can most efficaciously be employed for other projects of
17 benefit to the citizens of the state; and

18 WHEREAS the long lines carrier and the local communications carrier
19 serving Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik,
20 Selawik, and Shungnak have reached an understanding for presently providing
21 communications services by satellite at these locations; and

22 WHEREAS the long lines carrier and the local exchange company, in the
23 best interest of providing a necessary service to its consumers, have an
24 agreement to review, at the end of 18 months, the basis upon which tele-
25 communications services are provided to the exchange area, including such
26 matters as ownership, operation, and maintenance of facilities in that area;
27 and

28 WHEREAS optimum telecommunications services can now best be provided by
29 private industry, under the auspices of the appropriate state and federal

1 regulatory commissions;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to
3 withdraw the state's applications for satellite earth stations at those 10
4 locations listed above, and further urges the Governor to support all appli-
5 cations of the long lines carrier presently on file or to be filed with the
6 appropriate state or federal regulatory agencies pertaining to the provision
7 of telecommunications services to these locations.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29