

Introduced: 4/11/79  
Referred: Judiciary

BY BETTISWORTH, BARNES, BEIRNE, BROWN,  
CARNEY, CHATTERTON, ELIASON, FULLER,  
GUY, HALFORD, HAYES, HURLBERT, MALONE,  
MARTIN, METCALFE, MONTGOMERY, MOSS,  
MUNSON, O'CONNELL, PARR, PHILLIPS,  
RANDOLPH, ZHAROFF AND GARDINER

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting removal of the sculpture  
6 "Nimbus" from the Juneau Courthouse  
7 Plaza.

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

9 WHEREAS, with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for  
10 the Arts, the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Court System  
11 jointly commissioned a sculpture for the outdoor plaza adjacent to the State  
12 Capitol, Juneau Court Building, and other state government facilities in  
13 Juneau; and

14 WHEREAS the piece, titled "Nimbus" by its originator, was intended to be  
15 "a work of national or regional significance", but has been publicly con-  
16 demned as "metal pop art" and worse; and

17 WHEREAS, far from meeting the expectation that the work would contribute  
18 to "a favorable or splendid aura" in the government center at Juneau,  
19 "Nimbus" has engendered lively controversy with respect to the worth of  
20 public art, the choice of the work and its artist, and the harmony of its  
21 design and execution with the natural scenery of the community and cultural  
22 values of its people; and

23 WHEREAS the selection of the artist and the quality of the completed  
24 work suggest that those responsible for commission of the piece were unaware  
25 of or insensitive to state policies concerning promotion of the works of  
26 Alaska artists which are of the highest quality; and

27 WHEREAS "Nimbus", as "public" art, fulfills neither the aspirations of  
28 its proponents nor the expectations of the general public;

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska State

1 Council on the Arts, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and  
2 Public Facilities as custodians of the piece for the State of Alaska, expe-  
3 dite removal of the work from its current site and, with due regard to any  
4 rights retained by the artist in the manner and location of any subsequent  
5 exhibition of the work, arrange to safeguard the sculpture in storage.

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