

Original sponsor: Labor and Management
Committee

Offered: 4/2/79
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to interstate claims for un-
6 employment benefits.

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

8 WHEREAS unemployment benefits payable under the unemployment law of
9 Alaska may be paid to claimants who work in Alaska but claim benefits while
10 residing in another state; and

11 WHEREAS section 3304(a)(9)(A) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (26
12 U.S.C. 3304(a)(9)(A)) prohibits a state from decreasing the amount of bene-
13 fits paid to a claimant solely because he claims benefits while residing in
14 another state; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska has the highest per capita personal income in the United
16 States and a correspondingly high cost of living; and

17 WHEREAS the amount of unemployment benefits payable under Alaska law is
18 set by the legislature to compensate unemployed individuals who reside in
19 Alaska and the payment of equal benefits to a claimant who resides in a state
20 with a lower cost of living overcompensates that person and encourages poten-
21 tial claimants to remain unemployed while outside Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS in 1977 interstate claims represented 43 per cent of the money
23 paid out of the state unemployment insurance trust fund; and

24 WHEREAS the payment of this amount of interstate claims is a drain on
25 Alaska's unemployment insurance trust fund which impedes Alaska's ability to
26 increase benefits payable to claimants to compensate them for the higher cost
27 of living in the state; and

28 WHEREAS, while Alaska could provide for reducing out-of-state payments
29 according to the cost of living of the state of residence under current law,

1 the state would then be courting an unfavorable administrative determination
2 which would require extensive litigation to resolve the matter;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Congress is respect-
4 fully requested to enact legislation which allows a state to pay unemployment
5 benefits to out-of-state claimants based on the average annual wage of the
6 state in which the claimant resides while receiving unemployment benefits;
7 and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress is respectfully requested to enact legis-
9 lation allowing states which are under the extended benefits program to pay
10 interstate claims for extended benefits only to interstate claimants who
11 reside in other states which are under the extended benefits program.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Harrison A.
13 Williams, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee; the
14 Honorable Carl D. Perkins, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Commit-
15 tee; Mr. Lawrence E. Weatherford, Administrator, Unemployment Insurance
16 Service, United States Department of Labor; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
17 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
18 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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