

Introduced: 2/13/80  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BEIRNE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the Secretary of the  
6 United States Department of Transpor-  
7 tation to revise the standard time  
8 zones in which Alaska is located.

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

10 WHEREAS, alone among the 50 states, Alaska spans four time zones; there  
11 is a three-hour time differential between Ketchikan and Nome; and

12 WHEREAS, historically, the location of Southeastern Alaska in the  
13 Pacific Standard Time Zone stems from territorial days when Southeastern's  
14 orientation--commerce and finance, transportation, government and other  
15 social and economic contacts--was primarily with Seattle; and

16 WHEREAS from the standpoint of geography most of Southeastern Alaska  
17 actually is located between or adjacent to those meridians of longitude west  
18 of Greenwich designated as the Yukon Standard Time Zone rather than in those  
19 designated as the Pacific Standard Time Zone; and

20 WHEREAS Southeastern's present locus in the westernmost and northernmost  
21 segment of the Pacific Standard Time Zone distorts the time for sunrise and  
22 sunset the year around by comparison to other areas within the same time  
23 zone; and

24 WHEREAS the Secretary of Transportation has considered and approved the  
25 transfer of a portion of Southeastern Alaska into the Yukon Standard Time  
26 Zone; and

27 WHEREAS the present two-hour time differential between Southeastern  
28 Alaska and Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the communities of the Kenai Peninsula  
29 and Prince William Sound creates confusion and difficulty in achieving and

1 maintaining sound commercial, efficient government, and satisfying personal  
2 communications; and

3 WHEREAS the elimination of this time differential between the state  
4 capital in Southeastern Alaska and centers of population, finance, trade and  
5 commerce in Southcentral and Interior Alaska would resolve one of Alaska's  
6 most compelling needs, the elimination of artificial barriers that impair  
7 efforts to improve communications, thus welding together the widely scattered  
8 population centers of this vast and varied state and bringing state govern-  
9 ment closer to all the people of Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS "with due regard to the convenience of commerce and the junction  
11 and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate and foreign  
12 commerce," the transfer of Southeastern Alaska and Central Alaska to the  
13 Yukon Standard Time Zone would foster "adherence to a greater uniformity of  
14 time" within the State of Alaska and place most Alaskans on an identical time  
15 schedule that would not inconvenience the traveler, the transportation indus-  
16 try, or other commercial enterprise with important connections both in Alaska  
17 and the "lower 48"; and

18 WHEREAS federal law (15 U.S.C. secs. 260 - 263, 266, and 267; 49 U.S.C.  
19 sec. 1655(e)(5)) regulates the time on which all federal offices and common  
20 carriers engaged in interstate and foreign commerce operate and grants to the  
21 Secretary of Transportation the authority to redefine the boundaries of time  
22 zones that serve the entire United States;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Secretary  
24 of the Department of Transportation to redefine the boundaries of the time  
25 zones in which Alaska is located at the earliest date possible by

26 (1) shifting those areas located in the Alaska Standard Time Zone  
27 and the Pacific Standard Time Zone into the Yukon Standard Time Zone; and

28 (2) maintaining the one-hour time differential between the time  
29 zone to be established and the existing Bering Standard Time Zone by ordering

1 that standard time be advanced by one hour in the Bering Standard Time Zone;  
2 and be it

3       FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is requested to amend  
4 15 U.S.C. sec. 263 to redesignate the time in the newly created standard time  
5 zone as Alaska Standard Time.

6       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Neil  
7 Goldschmidt, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; and to the Honor-  
8 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the  
9 Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
10 in Congress.

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