

Introduced: 2/18/80  
Referred: Commerce

BY HURLBERT, HALFORD, ANDERSON,  
BARNES, BROWN, FREEMAN, FULLER,  
HAUGEN, HAYES, MCKINNON, MALONE,  
MARTIN, MILES, MILLER, MONTGOMERY,  
MOSS, MUNSON, OSTERBACK, RANDOLPH,  
ROGERS, ZHAROFF AND GARDINER

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 70

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to operations at bush air-  
6 ports in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the State of Alaska is the largest and most sparsely populated  
9 state in the Union, with numerous small communities broadly dispersed; and

10 WHEREAS these communities typically have no roads or other surface  
11 access to neighboring communities or to regional population centers for their  
12 basic needs; and

13 WHEREAS these communities are necessarily dependent on aviation for all  
14 aspects of their existence as well as for their communications with the  
15 outside world; and

16 WHEREAS the vast majority of these communities depend on aviation ser-  
17 vices provided from small, predominately unimproved airstrips ranging from  
18 1400 to 2500 feet in length; and

19 WHEREAS remarkable advances in aviation technology, especially in short  
20 takeoff and landing (STOL) equipment have been made in the past few years;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS certain regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration  
23 adopted in 1952 have not been revised to take into consideration current STOL  
24 technology and capabilities; and

25 WHEREAS these regulations establish an arbitrary gross aircraft weight  
26 of 12,500 pounds for operations on bush airstrips in Alaska; and

27 WHEREAS the regulations largely prohibit STOL aircraft from operation on  
28 the very airfields for which they were designed; and

29 WHEREAS the permission to utilize STOL equipment on bush airstrips in

1 Alaska would greatly enhance service to the rural communities by providing  
2 for the more regular and professional delivery of cargo too large or too  
3 heavy to be fitted into the aircraft presently used; and

4 WHEREAS the increased efficiency and capability of the use of STOL  
5 aircraft would achieve, among other things, a substantial, and a substan-  
6 tially needed, increase in the quality of life for the residents of the  
7 remote Native villages of Alaska; and

8 WHEREAS the use of STOL aircraft would help the 38 communities in Alaska  
9 that are presently suffering a substantial loss in the capability to generate  
10 electricity and heat because of difficulty in obtaining oil into the communi-  
11 ties during the winter because of the inability of smaller aircraft to effi-  
12 ciently transport oil; and

13 WHEREAS the Governor of Alaska has recommended to the Administrator of  
14 the Federal Aviation Administration by letter of January 24, 1980, that  
15 consideration be given to requests for exemptions from the regulations to  
16 resolve the matter and to provide assistance to the rural Alaskan communi-  
17 ties; and

18 WHEREAS exemption from regulation 14 C.F.R. section 135.385(b) and (c)  
19 of the Federal Aviation Administration would enable operation of such air-  
20 craft as the CARIBOU, CASA 212, and similar aircraft to serve the remote  
21 areas of the state; and

22 WHEREAS favorable consideration by the Administrator of the Federal  
23 Aviation Administration to a request for expedited consideration of the  
24 request under 14 C.F.R. sections 11.25(b)(1) and 11.27 would enable service  
25 to begin earlier than might otherwise be possible;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Administrator of  
27 the Federal Aviation Administration is urged to give prompt and favorable  
28 action to the requests that STOL aircraft be licensed for use at remote  
29 Alaskan airstrips.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,  
2 President of the United States; to the Honorable Langhorne M. Bond, Adminis-  
3 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and to the Honorable Ted  
4 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators and the Honorable Don  
5 Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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