

Introduced: 4/1/80
Referred: State Affairs
and Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to participation by the deaf
6 in Alaska government.

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

8 WHEREAS there are at least 200 Alaskans who are deaf and are, as a
9 result, effectively denied participation in the government process available
10 to those with normal hearing; and

11 WHEREAS federal law provides that "No qualified handicapped person
12 shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied
13 the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any pro-
14 gram or activity which receives or benefits from federal financial assis-
15 tance"; and

16 WHEREAS former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Califano
17 acknowledged the problem in April 1977 when he stated that: "We must recog-
18 nize that positive steps will, in some instances, be required so that handi-
19 capped individuals are able to learn, to work and compete on a fair and equal
20 basis. Admitting a deaf child to a class, for example, is a meaningless
21 gesture unless an interpreter is also available to communicate the teacher's
22 words"; and

23 WHEREAS solutions to this problem have been essentially ignored in the
24 State of Alaska;

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is
26 respectfully requested to direct public officers to make available sign
27 language interpreters, if requested by a handicapped-deaf person, to act on
28 his behalf for better communication with officers and agents of government.

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