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Referred: Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COLLETTA

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to ownership of earth
6 stations.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE:

8 WHEREAS communications planning and policy are of vital and continuing
9 interest to the citizens of the state -- affecting their lives and personal
10 welfare at all levels of activity, in both urban and rural areas; and

11 WHEREAS recent technological advances have rendered feasible improve-
12 ments in Alaska's communications network not previously available; and

13 WHEREAS chief among those advances has been the development of a highly
14 sophisticated and practical applied science relating to the use of synchro-
15 nous-orbit communications satellites in conjunction with earthbound trans-
16 mitting and receiving stations; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of those factors, the Alaska State Legislature
18 resolved in House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975) to urge the Governor,
19 through the office of telecommunications, to acquire and install satellite
20 earth stations in consultation with the state's long lines carrier; and

21 WHEREAS, under House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975), the office of
22 telecommunications and the long lines carrier entered into a series of three
23 agreements providing for the installation, operation, and maintenance of 100
24 small earth stations in the rural areas of Alaska by the long lines carrier;
25 and

26 WHEREAS the construction of the 100 small earth stations has been con-
27 cluded, bringing the benefits of modern satellite communications to the
28 remote areas of the state, and thereby achieving the goals and purposes of
29 the legislature expressed in House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975); and

1 WHEREAS the long lines carrier has represented to the appropriate state
2 and federal regulatory agencies its readiness, willingness, and ability to
3 provide the monetary and physical resources necessary to provide such ser-
4 vices, and to reimburse the state, on an equitable basis, for its capital
5 expenditures pertaining to the 100 small earth stations; and

6 WHEREAS optimum telecommunications service can now best be provided by
7 private industry, under the auspices of the appropriate state and federal
8 regulatory commissions; and

9 WHEREAS the legislature has recognized that satellite television ser-
10 vices will promote the general public health and well-being of Alaska citi-
11 zens; and

12 WHEREAS the legislature has authorized continued funding of the televi-
13 sion demonstration project; and

14 WHEREAS the long lines carrier has offered to reduce the rate for tele-
15 vision services funded by the state from \$2,145,000 annually to \$750,000
16 annually for a period of three years in return for the ownership of the earth
17 stations and related equipment, subject to the approval of the appropriate
18 regulatory bodies if the equipment is independently valued at not less than
19 \$4,185,000; and

20 WHEREAS the Governor has expressed interest in reducing state funding of
21 television services; and

22 WHEREAS a reduction in annual rates will facilitate the ability of
23 private enterprise to fund the television services;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate respectfully requests and urges the
25 Governor to withdraw the state's applications for satellite earth stations at
26 those locations where there are no competing applications, other than by the
27 long lines carrier, for ownership of that equipment, and further requests and
28 urges the Governor to support all applications of the long lines carrier
29 presently on file or to be filed with the appropriate state or federal regula-

1 tory agencies pertaining to the provision of telecommunications services to
2 those locations.

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