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Referred: Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COLLETTA

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7 am

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 telephone carriers have represented to the appropriate state  
2 and federal regulatory agencies their 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 negotiate with the long line carrier the exchange of small earth  
26 stations for television service and if an accepted agreement is reached  
27 to withdraw the state's applications for satellite earth stations at those  
28 locations where there are no competing applications, other than by the long  
29 lines carrier, for ownership of that equipment, and further requests and

1 urges the Governor to support private ownership of telecommunications facili-  
2 ties.

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