

Original Sponsor: State Affairs
Committee

Offered: 3/31/81
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8 (State Affairs)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the preservation of the
6 House of Wickersham.

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

8 WHEREAS a significant portion of Alaska's documented and written history
9 during the years 1900 through 1938 is recorded only in the diaries, papers,
10 and manuscripts of Alaska's pioneer judge, James Wickersham; and

11 WHEREAS the House of Wickersham, located in Juneau and built on the
12 site of the New Boston gold mining claim, is itself of major historical
13 significance as one of the first large homes built in Alaska after the
14 purchase from Russia, and as a fine example of Victorian architecture; and

15 WHEREAS the House of Wickersham has been certified for inclusion on the
16 National Register of Historic Places, and its private collection of historic
17 documents, diaries, papers, photo files, and artifacts is of major signifi-
18 cance to scholars of early twentieth century Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS the histories of Nome, the Aleutian Islands, Fairbanks, Eagle,
20 Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Valdez, Skagway, Wrangell, Sitka, Ketchikan, and
21 Juneau are preserved and represented in these early documents, making the
22 Wickersham collection of major statewide importance; and

23 WHEREAS in years past many private historic collections have been sold
24 or removed from Alaska; and

25 WHEREAS it seems appropriate that the Wickersham collection and its
26 repository should be recognized and preserved for the benefit of all Alaskans
27 now and in centuries to come;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is
29 respectfully requested to establish a task force to develop a plan for the

1 continued operation and preservation of the House of Wickersham; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor appoint the directors of the division
3 of parks of the Department of Natural Resources, the division of libraries
4 and museums of the Department of Education, and the division of tourism of
5 the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and other officers of
6 state government concerned with the history of the state to serve on the
7 task force; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor invite the appropriate federal
9 agencies and historical associations to work with the task force toward the
10 achievement of its goal.

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