

Introduced: 6/1/81  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE BY BETTISWORTH AND ROGERS  
2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to provisions of government-  
6 tal services in Alaska without  
7 federal financial assistance.

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

9 WHEREAS the United States acquired the territory which today is the  
10 State of Alaska by a farsighted purchase from Russia in 1867, allowed incor-  
11 porated territory status in 1912, granted statehood in 1959, and in the  
12 Statehood Act granted substantial land with mineral rights to the new state;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS during the territorial period and the early years of statehood  
15 Alaska had scant resources available to the territorial and state government  
16 to provide necessary governmental services to the people of Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS the help given to Alaska by the federal government during those  
18 years was essential to the existence and development of Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS the report from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
20 of the United States House of Representatives which recommended admission of  
21 the State of Alaska into the Union states:

22 "H.R. 7999 will enable Alaska to achieve full equality with exist-  
23 ing States, not only in a technical juridical sense, but in practical  
24 economic terms as well. It does this by making the new State master in  
25 fact of most of the natural resources within its boundaries, and making  
26 provision for appropriate Federal assistance during the transition  
27 period....

28 While it is not possible to say definitely in what particular  
29 respect the admission of Alaska will strengthen the Nation, some general

1 considerations may be pointed out which point to that conclusion....

2 Concretely, the grant of statehood will mean some saving to the  
3 Federal Government as the people of Alaska take over part of the burden  
4 of supporting certain governmental functions now borne by the United  
5 States Treasury.

6 From the standpoint of economic development, the committee believes  
7 that statehood will permit and encourage a much more rapid growth in the  
8 economy of the Territory than would be possible under territorial  
9 status. Many witnesses have testified to the committee regarding the  
10 wealth of untapped resources in Alaska.

11 It is apparent from the history of the last 88 years that the  
12 extreme degree of Federal domination of Alaskan affairs has not resulted  
13 in the maximum development of the Territory. As previously pointed  
14 out, the committee has included in this bill provisions which it  
15 believes will open up many of the resources of Alaska for the use of  
16 mankind."; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska is grateful for the aid given by the federal government  
18 when that aid was necessary and appreciative of the confidence in the future  
19 of Alaska shown in the Statehood Act; and

20 WHEREAS the government of the United States is now experiencing sub-  
21 stantial financial difficulty which it is valiantly striving to overcome  
22 while Alaska has realized, with the aid of the federal government and the  
23 striving of the people of Alaska, development of resources adequate to  
24 support its functions; and

25 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature finds that it is now time that  
26 "the people of Alaska take over part of the burden of supporting certain  
27 governmental functions now borne by the United States Treasury" as stated in  
28 the committee report by fulfilling that obligation in the fullest measure to  
29 aid the struggle of the federal government to overcome its financial diffi-

1 culties; and

2 WHEREAS, since it has the financial ability to do so and many other  
3 states still require federal aid to meet their problems, the State of Alaska  
4 should not apply for or receive federal money which is so desparately needed  
5 elsewhere;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is  
7 urged not to apply for, nor accept, money from the beleaguered federal  
8 government; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to present to the  
10 Second Session of the Twelfth Legislature a budget in which provision is  
11 made for payment of necessary governmental functions by the State of Alaska  
12 from its own resources without recourse to money from the federal government.

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