

Introduced: 3/3/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DUNCAN

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to U.S. Public Health
6 Service for the Alaskan fishing
7 fleet.

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

9 WHEREAS the following services formerly provided to American seamen
10 have been cut back by the U.S. Public Health Service:

11 (1) inpatient hospital care, both emergency and nonemergency;

12 (2) physician or other professional services associated with
13 inpatient hospitalization;

14 (3) maternity services, including prenatal, delivery and post-
15 partum care and services for the newborn;

16 (4) dental services, either routine or emergency; and

17 (5) outpatient drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, durable
18 medical equipment, and prostheses; and

19 WHEREAS inpatient hospital services for American seamen will now only
20 be paid for by the U.S. Public Health Service if the services are received
21 at a Public Health Service hospital unless the services are unavailable at a
22 Public Health Service hospital; and

23 WHEREAS the nearest U.S. Public Health Service hospital available to
24 serve Alaska seamen is in Seattle, Washington; and

25 WHEREAS transportation costs to Seattle will only be paid for by the
26 U.S. Public Health Service after arrangements have been made with a Public
27 Health Service staff physician and the chief of the admitting service at the
28 Public Health Service hospital; and

29 WHEREAS this policy may prove more expensive than the use of community

1 hospitals due to the high cost of transportation; and

2 WHEREAS the entire Alaska fishing fleet is affected by this policy;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the policy of the
4 U.S. Public Health Service should reflect an understanding of the unique
5 situation of Alaskan seamen by providing inpatient and other health services
6 through community hospitals and clinics in the State of Alaska.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard S.
8 Schweiker, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Mr.
9 Emory Johnson, Director of the Public Health Service; and to the Honorable
10 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honor-
11 able Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
12 Congress.