

Introduced: 5/6/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

BY HURLBERT, ADAMS, BUCHHOLDT,
CHUCKWUK, CLOCKSIN, FULLER,
GARDINER, GRUSSENDORF, MOSS,
SUTCLIFFE, VASKA, ZHAROFF AND
DUNCAN

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the elimination of the
6 Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska
7 general assistance program.

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

9 WHEREAS President Reagan has proposed a comprehensive program to bring
10 about a recovery of the economy of the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, in keeping with the Administration's policy of reducing govern-
12 ment spending, the Department of the Interior has sent a budget to Congress
13 reduced by \$79,900,000, a seven percent reduction; and

14 WHEREAS the Department of the Interior budget reduction includes the
15 total elimination of \$5,700,000 for the Alaska general assistance welfare
16 grants; and

17 WHEREAS the Alaska general assistance program to Alaska Natives is
18 being eliminated due to the good financial status of the state but all other
19 tribes will receive increases through general assistance programs; and

20 WHEREAS the elimination of the Alaska general assistance program is a
21 breach of the federal government's responsibility to Native Alaskans; and

22 WHEREAS the Alaska general assistance program provides needed cash
23 assistance to an average of 5,500 eligible Native Alaskans; and

24 WHEREAS the elimination of the Alaska general assistance program is a
25 discriminatory budget reduction and not in the spirit of the Administration's
26 program to reduce government spending by spreading reductions fairly;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President is
28 respectfully requested to direct James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior,
29 to equitably apportion proposed budget reductions within the Department of

1 the Interior to reflect its responsibility to Native Alaskans.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
3 President of the United States; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of
4 the Interior; the Honorable John Melcher, Chairman of the Senate Select
5 Committee on Indian Affairs; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the
6 House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and to the Honorable Ted
7 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
8 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29