

Introduced: 5/27/82
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 88

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Supporting the request for deployment

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of a Coast Guard helicopter in

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Cordova, Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS there has been a steady increase in the number of incidents in

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Prince William Sound that require timely emergency assistance; and

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WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard projects that the frequency of

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requests for search and rescue efforts in Prince William Sound will continue

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to increase in the foreseeable future; and

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WHEREAS the response time of the closest available Coast Guard heli-

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copter personnel and equipment stationed in Kodiak, Alaska is nearly two and

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one-half hours; and

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WHEREAS Coast Guard standards reflect that a response time of more than

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45 minutes is inadequate for rescue efforts and would seem especially in-

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adequate considering the water conditions that exist in Prince William Sound;

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WHEREAS Prince William Sound receives particularly heavy commercial and

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recreational use during the summer fishing and tourist season months; and

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WHEREAS there has already been a loss of at least six lives this year in

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Prince William Sound, and several of those deaths might have been averted if

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helicopter rescue service could have been more timely provided; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska recreational boating fatality rate is more than twice

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as high as the fatality rate of the next highest state; and

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WHEREAS the legislature understands that a request has been made by the

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Commander of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District for the deployment of a

1 Coast Guard helicopter in Cordova that is equipped and available for search
2 and rescue duty; and

3 WHEREAS the stationing by the Coast Guard of a helicopter in Cordova
4 would greatly increase the safety and welfare of the people who use Prince
5 William Sound;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
7 request of the commander for the deployment of a Coast Guard helicopter to be
8 stationed in Cordova, Alaska.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Drew Lewis,
10 Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Admiral James S. Gracey, The
11 Commandant of the United States Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
12 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
13 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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