

Offered: 3/25/83  
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Grussendorf and Fritz

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 (State Affairs)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 Relating to travel by senior citizens  
6 and handicapped persons aboard vessels  
7 of the state marine highway system.  
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 WHEREAS, since 1974, in response to House Concurrent Resolution  
10 No. 52, the state marine highway system has provided for travel on ferries  
11 by persons 65 years of age and older on a space-available basis within  
12 Alaska without charge during the months of November to April, inclusive;  
13 and  
14 WHEREAS, during 1980, in response to Legislative Resolve No. 2, 1980,  
15 the period of free passage for senior citizens aboard state marine highway  
16 vessels was extended to October 1 to May 15 inclusive; and  
17 WHEREAS, since 1981, in response to Legislative Resolve No. 39, 1981,  
18 the state marine highway system has provided for travel of handicapped  
19 persons on ferries on a space-available basis within Alaska without charge  
20 from October 1 to May 15 inclusive; and  
21 WHEREAS this service has been used by increasing numbers of handicap-  
22 ped persons and senior citizens permitting travel on the marine highway  
23 system at no cost while increasing the number of foot passengers on vessels  
24 of the system; and  
25 WHEREAS the policy of free passage for handicapped persons and senior  
26 citizens allows only passage without cost during the "off-season", is not  
27 extended to other services for handicapped persons and senior citizens  
28 traveling aboard vessels, and in fact requires handicapped persons and  
29 senior citizens to pay full costs of lodging; and

1        WHEREAS many handicapped persons and senior citizens find it difficult  
2 to use vessels of the marine highway system because of the unavailability  
3 and high cost of lodging;

4        BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
5 the Governor to direct the commissioner of transportation and public facil-  
6 ities to direct the division of marine highways to extend free passage on  
7 the Aurora, Le Conte, Chilkat, Tustumena, and Bartlett, to handicapped  
8 persons and senior citizens during every month of the year to permit them  
9 to travel between Alaska ports on a space-available basis; and be it

10        FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor direct the division of marine high-  
11 ways to investigate the possibility of making staterooms aboard state  
12 ferries available at a reduced rate to handicapped persons and senior  
13 citizens when traveling between Alaska ports.