

Introduced: 3/7/83
Referred: Labor & Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HAYES, GOLL AND MCBRIDE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Requesting the Governor to designate

6

March 13 - 19, 1983 as "Alaska Employ

7

the Older Worker Week".

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

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WHEREAS individuals aged 55 and over are a major national resource,
10 constitute 22 percent of the population of the United States at the present
11 time, and are likely to constitute a larger percentage of the population in
12 future decades; and

13 WHEREAS a growing number of such individuals, being willing and able
14 to work, are looking for employment opportunities, want to remain in the
15 work force, or would like to serve their communities and their nation in
16 voluntary roles; and

17 WHEREAS such individuals, who have made continuing contributions to
18 the national welfare, should be encouraged to remain in, or resume, career
19 and voluntary roles that utilize their strengths, wisdom, and skills; and

20 WHEREAS career opportunities reaffirm the dignity, self-worth, and
21 independence of older individuals by encouraging them to make decisions and
22 to act upon those decisions, by tapping their resources, experience, and
23 knowledge, and by enabling them to contribute to society; and

24 WHEREAS the operation of title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965
25 has demonstrated that older workers are extremely capable in a wide variety
26 of job roles; and

27 WHEREAS recent studies conducted by the United States Department of
28 Labor and the Work in America Institute indicate that in many cases em-
29 ployers prefer to retain older workers or rehire former older employees due

1 to the high quality of their job performance and their low rate of absen-
2 teeism; and

3 WHEREAS the American Legion has sponsored a "National Employ the Older
4 Worker Week" during the second full week of March in every year since 1959,
5 focusing public attention on the advantages of employing older individuals;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
7 respectfully requested to designate the week of March 13 - 19, 1983, as
8 "Alaska Employ the Older Worker Week"; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED the Governor is also requested to issue a proclama-
10 tion calling upon

11 (1) the employers and labor unions of the state to give special
12 consideration to older workers, with a view toward expanding career and
13 employment opportunities for older workers who are willing and able to work
14 and who desire to remain employed or to reenter the work force;

15 (2) voluntary organizations to reexamine the many fine service
16 programs which they sponsor with a view toward expanding both the number of
17 older volunteers and the types of service roles open to older workers;

18 (3) the Alaska Department of Labor to give special assistance to
19 older workers by means of job training programs, job counseling, and addi-
20 tional support through older worker programs; and

21 (4) the people of Alaska to observe this week with appropriate
22 programs, ceremonies, and activities.