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Referred: Transportation

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the construction and use of

6

middle turning lanes on highways.

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

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WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has
9 constructed various intersections and highways incorporating a middle
10 turning lane; and

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WHEREAS many of these middle turning lanes are constructed in such a
12 way as to encourage illegal use by motorists as a passing lane or other
13 inappropriate uses; and

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WHEREAS most Alaskan drivers are unaware of the legal use of middle
15 turning lanes because of inadequate drivers education and lack of instruc-
16 tion regarding their use in the state drivers manual; and

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WHEREAS traffic signaling devices used to designate middle turning
18 lanes are often inadequate, particularly in winter with snow and ice cover-
19 ing street markings; and

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WHEREAS regulations governing use of middle turning lanes are not
21 applicable when traffic signaling devices are not visible or not working;
22 and

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WHEREAS the combination of these factors has made troopers hesitant or
24 unable to issue citations for illegal use of middle turning lanes;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature of the state of Alaska requests
26 the Governor of the state of Alaska to instruct the Department of Transpor-
27 tation and Public Facilities to construct middle turning lanes only in
28 areas where no other alternative is available, in a manner that precludes
29 illegal use by designs that limit the traffic flow to appropriate lanes,

1 and mark them with traffic signaling devices that are visible and function
2 in all weather and traffic conditions; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Transportation and Public
4 Facilities, Department of Public Safety, and municipalities with middle
5 turning lanes establish a cooperative agreement on the use and construction
6 of middle turning lanes, and the education of drivers regarding their
7 proper use.