

Offered: 3/6/86
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Szymanski and Uehling

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 (Finance)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to access to Whittier and to
6 Shotgun Cove.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS Whittier is becoming an important destination for tourists
9 visiting Alaska, as shown by the increase of tour ships stopping at Whit-
10 tier and of recreational businesses operating out of Whittier; and
11 WHEREAS Whittier is also growing in recreational importance to many
12 Alaska residents who travel to Whittier each summer for water-related
13 recreation, and who depend for this purpose upon access to Whittier; and
14 WHEREAS demand for Whittier harbor berths by recreational boaters far
15 exceeds the available harbor space; and
16 WHEREAS the Thirteenth Alaska State Legislature created the Alaska
17 Marine Park system to protect areas within Prince William Sound for public
18 recreation; and
19 WHEREAS the planned disposal of municipal land between Whittier and
20 Shotgun Cove for community expansion and recreation will increase the
21 interest in the Whittier area for recreational homes or permanent resi-
22 dences; and
23 WHEREAS in 1984, over 200,000 persons visited Whittier, including
24 travelers on the Alaska marine highway system; and
25 WHEREAS the summer shuttle service between Portage and Whittier during
26 the summer of 1984 was too infrequent to meet the needs of Anchorage visi-
27 tors to Whittier; and
28 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has been acquired by the state, and trans-
29 portation planning can go forward at the state level on a comprehensive

1 basis; and

2 WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is
3 examining alternatives for improving access to Whittier;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the Depart-
5 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities for its investigation of ways
6 to improve transportation to Whittier, including the possibility of paving
7 one or both of the railroad tunnels between Portage and Whittier, and of
8 increasing shuttle service by the Alaska Railroad; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor
10 to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to estab-
11 lish as a priority the planning of improved access to Whittier and between
12 Whittier and Shotgun Cove so that the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature
13 can consider the department's recommendations and take action on this
14 matter; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the
16 Alaska Railroad Corporation initiate increased summer shuttle service
17 between Portage and Whittier until the state makes a permanent decision on
18 this access problem.