

Introduced: 3/1/85
Referred: Labor & Commerce

BY RIEGER, PEARCE, COLLINS,
HANLEY, MARTIN, PETTYJOHN
AND MARROU

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to visa waivers for interna-

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tional airline passengers.

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

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WHEREAS tourism is an important element in the state's immediate

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future and a vital part of ensuring stable and continuing economic growth;

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and

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WHEREAS 1.5 million passengers annually transit the Anchorage Interna-

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tional Airport on the transpolar route between Europe and Asia; and

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WHEREAS research by the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau

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reveals that among the annual airport transpolar passengers, 84 percent in-

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dicated an interest in the state, 80 percent vacation at least once a year

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in the period from September to May when the state needs more visitors, 62

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percent like winter-oriented vacations, 50 percent could have planned a

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stopover in Anchorage, 50 percent would stop for four to seven days, and 76

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percent are frequent transpolar route passengers and previously have landed

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in Anchorage; and

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WHEREAS state revenue from transpolar passengers constitutes more than

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50 percent of the revenue necessary to operate all international airports

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in the state; and

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WHEREAS there is the strong likelihood that carriers on the transpolar

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route will no longer need this state as a refueling stop in the foreseeable

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future and passenger interest in visits or stopovers in the state will be

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the only incentive for transpolar air carriers to continue to stop in the

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state; and

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WHEREAS one of several obstacles to a stopover in the state is the

1 present requirement of a United States visa; and

2 WHEREAS last year Congress considered but failed to pass legislation
3 providing for the granting of visa waivers;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the members
5 of the Alaska delegation in Congress in their renewed efforts to secure the
6 waiver of visa requirements for transpolar passengers wishing to exercise
7 stopover privileges in the state.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
9 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
10 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.