

Offered: 3/15/85
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Rieger, Pearce,
Collins, et al

BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20 (L&C)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to visa waivers for interna-
6 tional airline passengers.

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

8 WHEREAS tourism is an important element in the state's immediate
9 future and a vital part of ensuring stable and continuing economic growth;
10 and

11 WHEREAS 1.5 million passengers annually transit the Anchorage Interna-
12 tional Airport on the transpolar route between Europe and Asia; and

13 WHEREAS research by the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau
14 reveals that among the annual airport transpolar passengers, 84 percent in-
15 dicated an interest in the state, 80 percent vacation at least once a year
16 in the period from September to May when the state needs more visitors, 62
17 percent like winter-oriented vacations, 50 percent could have planned a
18 stopover in Anchorage, 50 percent would stop for four to seven days, and 76
19 percent are frequent transpolar route passengers and previously have landed
20 in Anchorage; and

21 WHEREAS state revenue from transpolar passengers constitutes more than
22 50 percent of the revenue necessary to operate all international airports
23 in the state; and

24 WHEREAS there is the strong likelihood that carriers on the transpolar
25 route will no longer need this state as a refueling stop in the foreseeable
26 future and passenger interest in visits or stopovers in the state will be
27 the only incentive for transpolar air carriers to continue to stop in the
28 state; and

29 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 requests the
5 President and the Congress of the United States to support the renewed
6 effort to secure the waiver of visa requirements for transpolar passengers
7 wishing to exercise stopover privileges in the state.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
9 Reagan, President of the United States, the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority
10 Leader of the Senate, the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., Speaker
11 of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
12 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
13 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.