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Original sponsors: Rieger, Pearce,
Collins, et al

BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 SENATE CS FOR 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 visa waivers would encourage eligible international airline
9 passengers and other eligible nonimmigrants to visit the United States; and

10 WHEREAS all the states of the nation would realize an increase in
11 tourism by granting visa waivers to eligible nonimmigrants; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska is particularly interested in securing a visa waiver
13 program because tourism is an important element in the state's immediate
14 future and a vital part of ensuring stable and continuing economic growth;
15 and

16 WHEREAS 1,500,000 international airline passengers annually transit
17 the Anchorage International Airport on the transpolar route between Europe
18 and Asia; and

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

27 WHEREAS state revenue from transpolar passengers constitutes more than
28 50 percent of the revenue necessary to operate all international airports
29 in the state; and

1 WHEREAS there is the strong likelihood that carriers on the transpolar
2 route will no longer need this state as a refueling stop in the foreseeable
3 future and passenger interest in visits or stopovers in the state will be
4 the only incentive for transpolar air carriers to continue to stop in the
5 state; and

6 WHEREAS one of several obstacles to a stopover in Alaska or any other
7 state is the present requirement of a United States visa; and

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

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Presi-
11 dent and the Congress of the United States to support the renewed effort to
12 secure the waiver of visa requirements for eligible international airline
13 passengers and other eligible nonimmigrants wishing to exercise stopover
14 privileges in Alaska and other states.

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