

Offered: 3/25/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: V.Fischer and
Josephson

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a statewide system of
6 trails.

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

8 WHEREAS Alaska has many historical, recreational, and wilderness
9 trails, waterways, and campsites; and

10 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to develop a statewide
11 trails system to increase recreational opportunities for residents and
12 visitors alike; and

13 WHEREAS it is necessary that the state develop a method of protecting
14 known trails from loss from public ownership; and

15 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to protect, provide
16 for, and enhance the use and enjoyment of publicly owned land and resources
17 by the public; and

18 WHEREAS a statewide trails system would provide access to areas of
19 historical, natural, or recreational interest; and

20 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to provide a method
21 for the connection of state trails with other existing or potential units
22 of a statewide system of trails, including trails located on federal or
23 municipal land; and

24 WHEREAS there is currently no comprehensive statewide plan for devel-
25 oping a trails system or including trails nominated by local governments
26 for inclusion in the state system; and

27 WHEREAS tourism constitutes the third largest industry in the state
28 and the development of recreational opportunities through a statewide
29 system of trails is in the public interest; and

1 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to encourage state
2 agencies to work cooperatively to reserve and develop trail heads to serve
3 a statewide system of trails; and

4 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to design, designate
5 and develop trails, trailheads, and public access areas in conjunction with
6 the construction of transportation and other public works projects; and

7 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the state to develop standards
8 and guidelines for inclusion of trails into a statewide system of trails;
9 and

10 WHEREAS information to members of the public about the use and loca-
11 tion of state trails is necessary to ensure safe and maximum public enjoy-
12 ment of publicly owned land and resources; and

13 WHEREAS the federal government is conducting management planning for
14 conservation units that encompass many important trails;

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is
16 respectfully requested to direct appropriate state agencies to develop a
17 plan for a comprehensive statewide system of trails that will

18 (1) provide for standards, procedures, and management guidelines
19 for designating trails within a statewide trails system;

20 (2) provide access to areas of historical, natural, or recrea-
21 tional interests;

22 (3) protect and enhance the use and enjoyment of publicly owned
23 land and resources by the public including traditional use of the land;

24 (4) protect existing trails now in public ownership and access
25 from loss to the public;

26 (5) propose a state and local government capital improvement
27 plan which includes inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the
28 design, development and management of a statewide system of trails;

29 (6) give special consideration to trails and their management in

1 the review of management plans for federal conservation units; and be it
2 FURTHER RESOLVED that efforts immediately concentrate on providing
3 input to appropriate agencies acting on federal management plans to assure
4 adequate protection of current and future access for recreational and other
5 purposes; and be it
6 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor is respectfully requested to pre-
7 pare and maintain a five-year development plan for the system and shall
8 include the plan in annual reports to the First Session of the Fifteenth
9 Legislature and to subsequent legislatures.