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Referred: Labor & Commerce

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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to insurance of fishing ves-

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sels.

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

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WHEREAS the cost of marine hull insurance for crab, trawl, and

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diversified seine fishing vessels in the state is prohibitively expensive,

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and often this insurance is only available in part or not available at all;

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and

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WHEREAS this problem occurs statewide and is preventing vessel owners

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from diversifying into other fisheries and in some cases preventing vessel

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owners from fishing; and

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WHEREAS this situation has resulted primarily from the high number of

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fishing accidents in recent years; and

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WHEREAS the high number of accidents has resulted in tragic and in

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almost all cases, avoidable instances of loss of life; and

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WHEREAS underwriters of marine insurance in the state have ceased

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issuing policies of insurance for this type of risk due to this situation;

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and

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WHEREAS many marine insurance underwriters are not familiar with the

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fishing industry and the causes of fishing accidents;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is

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requested to direct the Department of Commerce and Economic Development,

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division of insurance, to conduct a study to provide the underwriters of

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marine insurance in the state with information concerning fisheries

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management and safety that will encourage them to make insurance available

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at competitive rates; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the study

2 (1) quantify the contribution of operator factors and
3 nonoperator factors, such as weather;

4 (2) identify which of these operator and nonoperator factors
5 could be reduced by changes in fisheries management policy;

6 (3) identify specific types of safety problems;

7 (4) determine the viability of a statewide or industry insurance
8 pool;

9 (5) make recommendations designed to achieve safer vessel
10 operations; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of this study be reported to the
12 Alaska State Legislature and to the State Board of Fisheries so that they
13 may consider adoption of safety regulations that address the factors
14 causing an increase in the cost of marine insurance.