

Offered: 5/10/86
Referred: Rules

Original sponsors: Josephson, Sackett,
Rodey, et al

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36 (Finance)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Establishing a joint special committee
6 on mental health trust land.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the United States Congress granted 1,000,000 acres of land to
9 the Territory of Alaska to be administered as a public trust for the neces-
10 sary expenses and support of mental health in the territory; and
11 WHEREAS in October 1985, the Alaska Supreme Court determined that the
12 1978 decision of the Alaska Legislature to redesignate mental health trust
13 land as general grant land had breached the trust established by the Con-
14 gress; and
15 WHEREAS the funding level for the mental health programs in the state
16 is one of the lowest in the nation on a per capita basis; and
17 WHEREAS the legislature, the administration, and mental health advo-
18 cates agree that the state must comply with the intent of the Congress that
19 mental health programs in the state receive sufficient funding; and
20 WHEREAS it is not in the public interest that continued litigation
21 over the mental health land trust divert attention from the underlying goal
22 of increased funding for mental health programs and care in the state; and
23 WHEREAS present state statutes do not explicitly provide for the
24 management of mental health trust land for maximum revenue production; and
25 WHEREAS the return of mental health trust land to trust status pre-
26 cludes management of mental health trust land for its highest and best use;
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that a Joint Special
28 Committee on Mental Health Trust Land is established under Uniform Rule 21;
29 and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Special Committee on Mental Health
2 Trust Land is composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the
3 president of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives
4 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and two public
5 members interested in the mental health trust land issue; the public mem-
6 bers shall be selected by the other members of the Joint Special Committee
7 on Mental Health Trust Land; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that one member appointed from the House of Represen-
9 tatives be from the membership of the House Finance Committee and one
10 member appointed from the Senate be from the membership of the Senate
11 Finance Committee; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Special Committee on Mental Health
13 Trust Land develop, after public hearings, a proposal to resolve the mental
14 health trust litigation and recommend a level of appropriations adequate to
15 provide sufficient funding for mental health programs in the future; and be
16 it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is authorized to meet during and
18 between sessions of the legislature and is to report its recommendations
19 and findings on the first day of the First Session of the Fifteenth State
20 Legislature; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee terminates on the 10th day of the
22 First Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature.