

1 IN THE HOUSE

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2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20 am

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to an Interim Commission on the

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Status of Health Care and the Health

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Care Industry in Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS the ultimate goal of the health care system is to serve the
10 public interest, individually and collectively; and

11 WHEREAS the public interest includes a societal obligation to improve
12 access to health care services for those who face social, cultural, and
13 financial barriers to adequate health care; and

14 WHEREAS many factors have contributed to rapid dynamic change in the
15 accessibility and the cost of health care in the state such as changing
16 technology, development of new long-term care facilities, including Alaska
17 Pioneers' Homes, and replacement and renovation of older hospitals; and

18 WHEREAS the state's declining economy is contributing to an increased
19 demand for assistance under Medicaid and the general relief medical program
20 and is having an unknown effect on access to health care; and

21 WHEREAS the cost of medical care in the state is increasing at a rate
22 higher than the inflation rate and the cost of acute care and long-term
23 facilities increased even more rapidly in the past four years; and

24 WHEREAS the rates charged for nursing homes in the state are two and
25 one-half times the national average; and

26 WHEREAS state funding for the catastrophic illness assistance program
27 was eliminated in fiscal year 1986; and

28 WHEREAS the general relief medical program in the state was cut by 40
29 percent in fiscal year 1987, eliminating all but the most critical medical

1 services for about 5,000 Alaskans; and

2 WHEREAS the state participates in only about one-half of the options
3 available under the Medicaid Program; and

4 WHEREAS a balance between public and private sector involvement is
5 essential to the maintenance of an effective health care system;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
7 the Governor to establish an Interim Commission on the Status of Health
8 Care and the Health Care Industry in Alaska to examine the causes of in-
9 creasing health care costs, to review laws and regulations relating to
10 health care in the state, to review the efforts of other states to contain
11 health care and medical costs, and to make recommendations regarding legis-
12 lation or regulations which may be necessary to reduce the cost of health
13 care and to increase the effectiveness of health care delivery systems to
14 the residents of the state, especially the indigent; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
16 quests the Governor to appoint the commissioner of health and social ser-
17 vices, one member of the finance committee and one member of the health,
18 education and social services committee of each house of the Legislature,
19 and six members of the public knowledgeable in or experienced with the
20 provision of health care services in the state to constitute the interim
21 commission; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
23 quests the Governor to appoint the members of the interim commission by
24 July 1, 1987, and to direct the interim commission to submit a report of
25 its findings and proposals for legislation or regulations to the Governor
26 and the Legislature by January 15, 1988; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
28 quests the Governor to fund the operations of the interim commission by
29 appropriations and by private donations; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
2 **quests** the Legislative Council to provide the administrative and legal
3 **services** of the Legislative Affairs Agency to assist the interim commission
4 **in its work.**