

Introduced: 2/10/87
Referred: Transportation and Finance

5-0601A

1 IN THE SENATE

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2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to levels of service by the

6

Alaska Marine Highway System.

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

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WHEREAS interstate highways play an integral role in the commerce of
9 the state and the United States; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by residents of the
11 Southeastern, Southcentral, and Interior Regions of the state as an inter-
12 state and intrastate highway; and

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WHEREAS the residents of Southeastern Alaska have assented to a less
14 convenient manner of transportation due to the high cost of constructing
15 roads and the limitations, imposed by geographic circumstances, upon road
16 construction; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by shippers to trans-
18 port produce and other essential goods from Seattle to the Southeastern,
19 Southcentral, and Interior Regions of the state, thus providing retailers
20 and consumers with these goods in the most timely manner possible; and

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WHEREAS, in the winter months, approximately 40 percent of the users
22 of the Alaska Marine Highway System traveling between Seattle and Haines
23 are destined for the Southcentral and Interior Regions of the state; and

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WHEREAS the closure of, or reduced service on, a highway during winter
25 jeopardizes the tenuous winter economy of communities in the state; and

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WHEREAS the proposed reductions in the winter schedule of the Alaska
27 Marine Highway System could severely damage the economy of communities
28 dependent upon the Alaska Marine Highway System for the reliable and con-
29 tinuous supply of produce and other essential goods and for transportation

1 services;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
3 the Governor to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facil-
4 ities to maintain the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System at the
5 same level as for other interstate highways in the state.