

Offered: 4/29/87  
Referred: Finance

5-0601B

Original sponsors: Jones, Coghill,  
Duncan and Eliason

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 (Transportation)  
3 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.  
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
8 WHEREAS interstate highways play an integral role in the commerce of  
9 the state and the United States; and  
10 WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by residents of the  
11 Southeastern, Southcentral, Interior, and Southwestern Regions of the state  
12 as an interstate and intrastate highway; and  
13 WHEREAS the residents of Southeastern and Southwestern Alaska have  
14 assented to a less convenient manner of transportation due to the high cost  
15 of constructing roads and the limitations, imposed by geographic circum-  
16 stances, upon road construction; and  
17 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  
21 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, Interior, and other regions of the  
24 state; and  
25 WHEREAS the closure of, or reduced service on, a highway during winter  
26 jeopardizes the tenuous winter economy of communities in the state; and  
27 WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System already operates at a reduced  
28 level of service during the winter when compared to the level of service  
29 during the summer; and

1        WHEREAS the proposed further reductions in the winter schedule of the  
2 Alaska Marine Highway System could severely damage the economy of commu-  
3 nities dependent upon the Alaska Marine Highway System for the reliable and  
4 continuous supply of produce and other essential goods and for transporta-  
5 tion services;

6        BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
7 the Governor to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facil-  
8 ities to maintain the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System at the  
9 same level of service as during the last fiscal year.