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1 IN THE SENATE

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2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the promotion of the

6

Iditarod Race.

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

8 WHEREAS the Iditarod Race is the longest sled dog race in the world;

9 and

10 WHEREAS the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was conceived of and organi-
11 zed by Joe Redington, Jr., of Knik; and

12 WHEREAS the first race began in Anchorage on March 3, 1973, and ended
13 at Nome on April 3, 1973; and

14 WHEREAS the race has been run every year since 1973 and in 1976 was
15 declared Alaska's official sled dog race; and

16 WHEREAS in 1976, Congress declared the Iditarod as a National Historic
17 Trail; and

18 WHEREAS the Iditarod follows the old dog team mail route blazed in
19 1910 from Knik to Nome, crossing two mountain ranges, following the Yukon
20 River for about 150 miles, going through several bush villages, and cross-
21 ing the pack ice of Norton Sound; and

22 WHEREAS the Iditarod Race has become a major international racing
23 challenge; and

24 WHEREAS the Iditarod has significance beyond the race itself because
25 it commemorates a historic event: the successful effort of Leonhard
26 Seppala to deliver 300,000 units of life-saving diphtheria serum to
27 epidemic-threatened Nome; and

28 WHEREAS the commemoration of the historic event promotes tourism by
29 portraying a positive image of Alaska throughout the world;

1 ~~BE~~ BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
2 respectfully requested to encourage the division of tourism in the Depart-
3 ment of Commerce and Economic Development to feature the Iditarod Race in
4 its promotion of the State; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also requested to encourage the
6 division of tourism to allocate more resources to the promotion of the
7 Iditarod Race.