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Referred: State Affairs and Finance

5-1110A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the preservation of histor-

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ical school buildings.

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

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WHEREAS there are a number of school buildings in the state that have

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historical significance, including Whitecliff School in Ketchikan, Capital

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School in Juneau, Main School in Fairbanks, Akiak Elementary School in

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Akiak, and Denali School in Anchorage; and

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WHEREAS it is in the public interest that these buildings be preserved

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whenever consistent with the health, safety, and educational interests of

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the students served by the schools; and

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WHEREAS inclusion of a school building in the National Register of

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Historic Places may provide benefits to the building itself as well as the

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public as owner of the building; and

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WHEREAS a historical school building may sometimes be maintained by a

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local school district only through financial assistance from the state; and

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WHEREAS public assistance for historical schools serves the state as a

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whole through the encouragement of tourism, the preservation of historic

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identity and neighborhood vitality in areas of historical interest, and

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through other public purposes; and

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WHEREAS there is presently no comprehensive plan for providing assis-

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tance to local school districts to preserve historical school buildings;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is

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respectfully requested to direct the commissioner of education to report to

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the Second Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature, on or before

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January 31, 1988, with regard to the following:

1 (1) which school buildings in the state that were constructed  
2 before statehood are still being used for educational purposes;

3 (2) the condition and anticipated useful life of each of these  
4 buildings;

5 (3) whether the school districts operating these buildings  
6 intend to continue operating them as schools;

7 (4) what steps the state might take to encourage the continued  
8 operation of these buildings as schools;

9 (5) the nature of the benefits, if any, that accrue to the  
10 owners of a building that is included in the National Register of Historic  
11 Places; and

12 (6) if a school district is planning to close a historical  
13 school building, what compatible public uses the district might make of  
14 portions of the building in order to perpetuate the useful life of the  
15 building for educational purposes.