

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27 am
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the preservation of histor-
6 ical school buildings.

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

8 WHEREAS there are a number of school buildings in the state that have
9 historical significance, including Whitecliff School in Ketchikan, Capital
10 School in Juneau, Main School in Fairbanks, Akiak Elementary School in
11 Akiak, and Denali School in Anchorage; and

12 WHEREAS it is in the public interest that these buildings be preserved
13 whenever consistent with the health, safety, and educational interests of
14 the students served by the schools; and

15 WHEREAS inclusion of a school building in the National Register of
16 Historic Places may provide benefits to the building itself as well as the
17 public as owner of the building; and

18 WHEREAS a historical school building may sometimes be maintained by a
19 local school district only through financial assistance from the state; and

20 WHEREAS public assistance for historical schools serves the state as a
21 whole through the encouragement of tourism, the preservation of historic
22 identity and neighborhood vitality in areas of historical interest, and
23 through other public purposes; and

24 WHEREAS there is presently no comprehensive plan for providing assis-
25 tance to local school districts to preserve historical school buildings;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
27 respectfully requested to direct the commissioner of education to report to
28 the First Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature, on or before
29 January 31, 1989, 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 or has recently
13 closed a historical school building, what compatible public uses the
14 district might make of portions of the building in order to perpetuate the
15 useful life of the building for educational purposes.