

Introduced: 2/5/88  
Referred: Labor and Commerce

5-1814A

1 IN THE SENATE BY HENSLEY, FAIKS, KELLY,  
2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44 am H JOSEPHSON, ZHAROFF AND BINKLEY  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to estimates of joblessness in  
6 the state.

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

8 WHEREAS, when the state Department of Labor compiles data on levels of  
9 employment and unemployment in the state, it is required to be consistent  
10 with definitions and methodology of the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, to be counted as unemployed under the definitions used by the  
13 department, a person must be actively looking for work unless the person  
14 has accepted a job and is waiting for the job to begin; and

15 WHEREAS village residents generally know of job availability in their  
16 areas and do not look for work when no jobs are available; and

17 WHEREAS, consequently, as household surveys have demonstrated, the  
18 definition of unemployment results in substantial underestimates of job-  
19 lessness in rural Alaska; and

20 WHEREAS unemployment rates in urban areas suffering economic distress  
21 are also generally believed to be underestimates of the number of jobless  
22 persons; and

23 WHEREAS, like other states, Alaska's share of the four billion dollars  
24 in federal funding for programs of training, job services, and certain  
25 public works is based on levels of unemployment and does not consider the  
26 jobless rate; and

27 WHEREAS in this time of statewide economic distress, it becomes espe-  
28 cially important that the governor and legislature be accurately informed  
29 of levels of joblessness throughout the state as they consider courses

1 of action to relieve economic distress and encourage recovery;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is  
3 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Labor to review the  
4 available data and to advise the legislature by April 11, 1988, of its  
5 conclusions about levels of real joblessness in the state and what steps  
6 the legislature might take to encourage changes in the federal methodology  
7 guiding future unemployment data collection efforts so that unemployment  
8 information more nearly reflects information about joblessness.