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Referred: State Affairs and  
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5-1826A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JONES, ELIASON, ZHAROFF  
AND FISCHER

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the United States Coast Guard

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to continue operation of VHF-FM distress

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signal repeater stations.

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

9 WHEREAS many small boat commercial fishermen and many recreational  
10 boaters in Alaska rely upon a VHF-FM emergency position-indicating radio  
11 beacon (EPIRB) to broadcast distress signals in the event of an emergency  
12 at sea; and

13 WHEREAS the range of a VHF-FM EPIRB is limited in many parts of the  
14 state by mountains that block VHF-FM radio signals; and

15 WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard operates several VHF-FM radio  
16 signal repeater stations in the isolated areas of the state to relay VHF-FM  
17 distress signals in order to overcome the problems caused by coastal moun-  
18 tains; and

19 WHEREAS the Coast Guard proposes to close six VHF-FM repeater stations  
20 as part of an economy measure to cut \$100,000,000 from the Coast Guard's  
21 fiscal year 1988 budget; and

22 WHEREAS the closure of these VHF-FM repeater stations will result in  
23 gaps in the coverage of VHF-FM distress signal monitoring services provided  
24 by the Coast Guard; and

25 WHEREAS the absence of services to monitor for VHF-FM distress signals  
26 in the areas served by these repeater stations puts at risk small boat  
27 fishermen and recreational boaters who operate in these areas;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States  
29 Coast Guard is respectfully requested to continue to operate all existing

1 VHF-FM radio distress signal repeater stations in Alaska.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
3 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,  
4 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to  
5 the Honorable James H. Burnley IV, Secretary of Transportation; to Admiral  
6 Paul A. Yost, Jr., Coast Guard Commandant; to Rear Admiral Edward Nelson,  
7 Jr., Commander 17th Coast Guard District; to the Honorable Jim Wright,  
8 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted  
9 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
10 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-  
11 gress.