

Offered: 5/12/87
Referred: Health, Education & Social Services
& Finance

5-1168L

Original sponsors: Halford, Kelly,
Uehling, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the University of Alaska
6 community college system.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
8 WHEREAS the community colleges in the state contribute tremendously to
9 the educational and economic well-being of the state and its residents; and
10 WHEREAS the missions of the community colleges are distinct in the
11 programs they provide for career training and higher education; and
12 WHEREAS community colleges meet the local needs in their particular
13 communities and regions for specific higher education and maintain open-
14 door admissions; and
15 WHEREAS the community colleges offer community service courses and
16 activities as well as vocational and technical training; and
17 WHEREAS Alaska's community colleges are essential human development
18 agencies and integral parts of their communities; and
19 WHEREAS the community colleges are cost-efficient and productive
20 education units in the state; and
21 WHEREAS the legislature during territorial days established community
22 colleges in the state through the Community College Act; and
23 WHEREAS the legislature, since 1970, has been supportive of legisla-
24 tion to strengthen and develop the unique mission of community colleges;
25 and
26 WHEREAS the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education has supported
27 in its studies and reports the distinct community college mission; and
28 WHEREAS a restructuring of the University of Alaska as approved by the
29 Board of Regents may not clearly preserve the identity, mission, and goals

1 of the community colleges; and

2 WHEREAS the Senate wants to maintain citizen involvement, educational
3 opportunities, and accreditation standards; and

4 WHEREAS specific details of the restructure are as yet undetermined
5 and the Senate wants an open-admissions policy and other policies essential
6 to the continuation of the mission of community colleges to be maintained;
7 and

8 WHEREAS continued budget cuts could lead to further reduction in the
9 availability of degree and nondegree courses; and

10 WHEREAS merging community colleges into four-year schools could poten-
11 tially lead to students from community colleges competing for seats in
12 courses with university students; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska citizens have made it clear that they want their commu-
14 nity colleges preserved and strengthened;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate urges the Chair of the Senate Health,
16 Education and Social Services Committee to establish a subcommittee to meet
17 during the interim at the call of the Chair to monitor the proposed re-
18 structuring of the University of Alaska, to consider methods for improving
19 the quality of and access to public higher education in a cost-effective
20 manner, to study and develop a formula for funding the mission of community
21 colleges, and to report to the full legislature on the progress of the
22 restructuring proposal and its effect on the community colleges of the
23 state, and to report on recommendations for improving the quality of and
24 access to public higher education in a cost-effective manner no later than
25 the 10th day of the Second Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legisla-
26 ture; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate urges the Governor to appoint in
28 future appointments at least three members to the Board of Regents of the
29 University of Alaska who represent the interests of community colleges; and

1 be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that the community college mission, identity, and
3 goals as well as the open-admissions policies at community colleges and
4 rural education sites be preserved in the restructuring process; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the representation of local community interest
6 be continued through existing community college advisory councils and
7 vocational education advisory committees; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that future alternate restructuring proposals be
9 considered that include clear distinctions between institutional support
10 services and academic support services, and that would allow community
11 colleges to retain autonomous academic support services while institutional
12 support services may be combined into the appropriate unit of the Univer-
13 sity of Alaska; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents should not make transfers
15 between fiscal year 1988 allocations for community college instruction and
16 other allocations for instruction, and allocations for instruction should
17 not be reduced to fund administrative costs.

18 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the Board of
19 Regents of the University of Alaska; and to Donald D. O'Dowd, President of
20 the University of Alaska.