

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MARTIN AND HUDSON

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to a feasibility study for a

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state veterans' home.

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

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WHEREAS there are over 70,000 veterans in the state who have answered

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the call to serve their country in order to maintain the freedom of

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Alaskans and every United States citizen; and

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WHEREAS these Alaska veterans also have made significant contributions

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to the social, economic, and political vitality of the state; and

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WHEREAS these veterans are aging, rapidly approaching the time when

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they might be in need of nursing home care; and

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WHEREAS the Pioneer Home system cannot accommodate the increased

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demand for services and residential space that these veterans will place

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upon the system; and

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WHEREAS private nursing home care costs can quickly dissipate the

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assets of veterans and their families, thereby placing some veterans and

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the veterans' survivors in the welfare system; and

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WHEREAS these veterans deserve to retain their dignity and integrity

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when infirmity and medical conditions warrant nursing home care; and

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WHEREAS the survivors of veterans should not be reduced to poverty

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levels or forced to relocate to other states in order for the veterans to

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receive appropriate care; and

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WHEREAS the American Legion in Alaska and the Central Council of

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Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska have published formal declara-

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tions of their support for establishment of an Alaska Veterans' Home; and

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WHEREAS there may be federal funding available for part of the costs

1 of establishing and operating a veterans' home in the state;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
3 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Military and Veterans'
4 Affairs to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a
5 veterans' home in the state that would provide nursing home care and
6 residential care for Alaska veterans; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include joint efforts with the
8 United States Veterans' Administration, the Executive Office on Aging, the
9 federal Department of Health and Human Services, the state Department of
10 Health and Social Services, and the Older Alaskans Commission, where appro-
11 priate; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should explore the possibility of the
13 federal government sharing the costs of constructing and operating a
14 veterans' home in the state; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
16 should complete the study and report its findings and recommendations for
17 action to the legislature by January 15, 1990.