

1 IN THE HOUSE

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2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the state's Russian Orthodox

6

churches.

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

8 WHEREAS the history of the state has been enriched by the contribu-
9 tions of its early Russian settlers; and

10 WHEREAS the state's Russian Orthodox churches and the cathedrals at
11 Unalaska and Sitka represent the Russian Heritage that is today reflected
12 in the religion and traditions of many of the state's Native people; and

13 WHEREAS Unalaska's Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, portions of
14 which may date from 1826, has a rich collection of icons, which are reli-
15 gious objects executed in the Russian Orthodox style, books, and other
16 artifacts that convey the craftsmanship and artistry of the Aleut and
17 Russian people; and

18 WHEREAS in 1970 the United States Secretary of the Interior designated
19 Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church as a national historic landmark
20 because of its exceptional value to our nation's history; and

21 WHEREAS the long-term preservation of the church and the valuable
22 artifacts that it contains is being jeopardized by the serious deterio-
23 ration of the church, thus endangering one of the most significant col-
24 lections of Russian Orthodox art in the state; and

25 WHEREAS it is important that steps be taken to preserve our history
26 and to ensure that future generations can benefit from the rich cultural
27 and religious contributions of Russia; and

28 WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Office of the United States National Park
29 Service, which is preparing an historic American building survey, and the

1 Icon Preservation Task Force have expressed an interest in participating
2 with the state in compiling an inventory and documentation of the Russian
3 Orthodox churches in the state;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor
5 and the state office of history and archeology to inventory and document
6 the art and architecture of the state's Russian Orthodox churches listed in
7 the National Register of Historic Places including, in particular, the Holy
8 Ascension Russian Orthodox Church in Unalaska.