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6-1072A

BY JACKO, HOFFMAN, FOSTER,
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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27 am

3 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, Sitka and Kenai represent the Russian Heritage that is today
12 reflected in the religion and traditions of many of the state's Native
13 people; and

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Office of the United States National Park

1 Service, which is preparing an historic American building survey, and the
2 Icon Preservation Task Force have expressed an interest in participating
3 with the state in compiling an inventory and documentation of the Russian
4 Orthodox churches in the state;

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