Offered: 4/17/89
Referred: Rules

6-1072H

Original sponsors: Jacko, Hoffman, Foster, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27 (Finance)

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 Russian Orthodox churches have been built in many parts of the

11 state, including the Aleutian Islands; the Kenai Peninsula; the Bristol

12 Bay, Cook Inlet, and Nushagak regions; the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta; the

13 Seward Peninsula; and Southeast Alaska; and

14 WHEREAS the state's Russian Orthodox churches and the cathedrals at

15 Unalaska, Sitka, and Kenai represent the Russian heritage that is today

16 reflected in the religion and traditions of many of the state's Native

17 people; and

18 WHEREAS Unalaska's Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, portions of

19 which may date from 1826, has a rich collection of icons, which are reli-

20 gious objects executed in the Russian Orthodox style, books, and other

21 artifacts that convey the craftsmanship and artistry of the Aleut and

22 Russian people; and

23 WHEREAS in 1970 the United States Secretary of the Interior designated

24 Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church as a national historic landmark

25 because of its exceptional value to our nation's history; and

26 WHEREAS the long-term preservation of the church and the valuable

27 artifacts that it contains is being jeopardized by the serious deterio-

28 ration of the church, thus endangering one of the most significant col-

29 lections of Russian Orthodox art in the state; and

1 WHEREAS it is important that steps be taken to preserve the history
2 contained in those Russian Orthodox church buildings located across the
3 state that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and that
4 are historic landmarks to ensure that future generations can benefit from
5 the rich cultural and religious contributions of Russia; and
6 WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Office of the United States National Park
7 Service, which is preparing an historic American building survey, and the
8 Icon Preservation Task Force have expressed an interest in participating
9 with the state in compiling an inventory and documentation of the Russian
10 Orthodox churches in the state;
11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor
12 and the state office of history and archeology to inventory and document
13 the art and architecture of the state's Russian Orthodox churches listed in
14 the National Register of Historic Places including, in particular, the Holy
15 Ascension Russian Orthodox Church in Unalaska.