

BY FAHRENKAMP, STURGULEWSKI,
ZHAROFF, DUNCAN, KERTTULA,
POURCHOT, RODEY, SZYMANSKI, FRANK,
HALFORD, FAIKS AND KELLY

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Encouraging favorable consideration of a
state grant application by the division
of vocational rehabilitation of the
Department of Education for federal
funds to provide assistive technology
devices and services.

6

7

8

9

10

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

12

WHEREAS there have been major advances in the development of techno-
logical devices and services that can assist individuals who have disabili-
ties with many tasks; and

15

WHEREAS assistive technology would enable some individuals with
disabilities to have greater control over their own lives; to participate
in and contribute more fully to activities in their home, school, and work
environments, and in their communities; to interact to a greater extent
with nondisabled individuals; and to otherwise benefit from opportunities
that are taken for granted by individuals who do not have disabilities; and

21

WHEREAS the use of assistive technology devices and services by indi-
viduals with disabilities can reduce the costs of the disabilities to
society, individuals with disabilities, and families of individuals with
disabilities by reducing expenditures associated with early intervention,
education, rehabilitation, health care, transportation, telecommunication
services, and other services required by individuals with disabilities; and

27

WHEREAS many individuals with disabilities do not have access to the
assistive technology devices and sensitive technology services that they
need to function in society commensurate with their abilities; and

29

1 WHEREAS Alaska does not have a comprehensive program for making tech-
2 nology-related assistance available to individuals with disabilities
3 because the state lacks the resources to pay for the devices and services
4 and to pay trained personnel to provide assistance, information, and coor-
5 dination of services to those in need of the technology; and

6 WHEREAS, on January 25, 1988, Congress enacted the Technology-Related
7 Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-407);
8 and

9 WHEREAS the Congress has made available 10 grants of \$500,000 each so
10 that the states will have the financial resources to begin to provide
11 assistive technology devices and services to its citizens in need of the
12 technology; and

13 WHEREAS disabled Alaskans and their families would greatly benefit
14 from the establishment of such a program;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports and
16 encourages efforts made by the state to be among the first 10 states to re-
17 ceive a grant to establish a program to provide assistive technology de-
18 vices and services as set out in P.L. 100-407; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
20 quests the Secretary of Education to give positive consideration to the
21 State of Alaska's request for a grant this year and in future years; and be
22 it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
24 Congressional delegation to support the state's grant application through
25 all appropriate means.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lauro F.
27 Cavazos, Secretary of Education; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
28 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
29 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.