

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 4/29/91
Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws on its
2 centennial, and expressing the gratitude of the State of Alaska for the work of the
3 conference.

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

5 **WHEREAS** the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is beginning the
6 celebration of its 100th anniversary this year; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is appropriate upon this auspicious occasion to highlight the achievements of the
8 organization and to applaud its role in creating uniformity of the laws of the states, the District of
9 Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska has been an active participant in the national conference since 1912, with
11 the appointment of Royal A. Gunnison, of Juneau, as a member, and the appointment of 28 additional
12 members over the years since then; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska has been a major beneficiary of the work of the conference since 1913, with
14 that year's enactment of the Uniform Bills of Lading Act, the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Law, the
15 Uniform Sales Act, and the Uniform Warehouse Receipts Act, and enactment of a total of 63 Uniform
16 Acts to date; and

1 **WHEREAS** the existence and work of the conference recognizes our nation's need for uniformity
2 among the various U. S. jurisdictions in certain areas of the law -- a need perceived at least as far back
3 as 1881, when the Alabama State Bar Association took the first formal action to encourage development
4 of "uniform" laws, and 1889, when the American Bar Association decided at its 12th annual meeting
5 to work for "uniformity of the laws" of the then 44 states; and

6 **WHEREAS**, within a year after the American Bar Association's decision, the New York
7 legislature authorized the governor to appoint three commissioners to explore the most effective manner
8 in which to effect uniformity of law to ease problems developing between increasingly interdependent
9 states, and the first meeting of the "Conference of State Boards of Commissioners on Promoting
10 Uniformity of Law in the U. S." was held in Saratoga Springs, New York, on August 24, 1892, with
11 commissioners from seven states attending; and

12 **WHEREAS**, by the turn of the century, 33 of the then 45 states, along with two territories, were
13 members, and in 1915 the name of the conference was changed to the present one; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Acts produced by the conference -- both "uniform" and "model" -- solve many
15 of the problems associated with wide variations in state laws, covering a great range of issues from
16 commercial law and property law to probate and adoption; and

17 **WHEREAS**, among the most widely adopted Uniform Acts are the Uniform Anatomical Gift
18 Act, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, Uniform Commercial Code, Uniform Controlled
19 Substances Act, Uniform Partnership Act, Uniform Durable Power of Attorney Act, and Uniform
20 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act -- all providing crucial legislative answers to a vast array of
21 human concerns and situations; and

22 **WHEREAS**, at the present time, more than 300 lawyers in private practice or government
23 practice, justices, judges, and law professors, selected for their wide range of legal expertise and
24 experience, serve as uniform law commissioners or associate members of the conference and donate
25 hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of hours of their time to the conference, receiving no salary or
26 fees for their work;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature congratulates the National Conference of
28 Commissioners on Uniform State Laws on its 100th anniversary, applauds the work of the conference,
29 expresses the State of Alaska's most grateful and sincere appreciation for the opportunity to benefit from
30 that work, and wishes the conference the greatest success in at least the next 100 years.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Lawrence J. Bugge, President, and William J. Pierce,
32 Executive Director, of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.