

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MULDER BY REQUEST OF THE MILITARY SCHOOLS TASK FORCE

Amended: 4/12/94

Introduced: 1/11/94

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to schools on military installations.

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

3 WHEREAS nine schools located at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Eielson Air Force
4 Base, and Fort Richardson Army Base, namely, Aurora Elementary, Mount Iliamna
5 Elementary, Mt. Spurr Elementary, Orion Elementary, John F. Kennedy Elementary, Ursa
6 Minor Elementary, Ben Eielson Jr. and Sr. High School, Anderson Elementary, Taylor
7 Elementary, and Pennell Elementary, fail to meet minimum acceptable standards established
8 by the respective school districts; and

9 WHEREAS Taylor Elementary and Pennell Elementary are in a state of deterioration
10 and disrepair, and it is more cost effective and feasible to build one new school to replace
11 them rather than to attempt to repair them; and

12 WHEREAS the other seven schools, which contain numerous fire, life, and safety
13 problems, will continue to deteriorate, and the problems will be exacerbated if immediate
14 action is not taken; and

15 WHEREAS the federal government presently owns these schools; and

16 WHEREAS the respective school districts have agreed to assume ownership of these

1 schools provided minimum safety standards are met; and

2 **WHEREAS** a total of \$52,198,600 is required to bring these schools up to minimum
3 acceptable standards; and

4 **WHEREAS**, once transfer of ownership of these base schools is completed, future
5 funding needs for these schools can be met through the same funding avenues used for other
6 schools within the respective school districts; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state is committed to providing school children on military
8 installations with an education equal to that of other children in the state as evidenced by past
9 funding of the new Ladd Elementary School on Fort Wainright; and

10 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Education and Department of Defense
11 have previously indicated a willingness to support appropriation of federal funds to fully fund
12 the remaining upgrades and replacements of these facilities; and

13 **WHEREAS** the state is committed to exploring avenues to finance the upgrade of the
14 schools to ensure that the quality of education of school children on military installations is
15 not compromised; and

16 **WHEREAS** the state is committed to ensuring that no child or teacher in the state be
17 exposed daily to life, safety, and health hazards; and

18 **WHEREAS** the state recognizes that the military installations are a vital part of the
19 state's economy and that it is essential to provide basic services to meet the needs of the
20 military installation personnel;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Department
22 of Education and Department of Defense are urged to cooperate and assist in securing the
23 funding necessary to bring these schools up to minimum acceptable district standards as
24 expeditiously as possible; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Anchorage School District and Fairbanks North Star
26 Borough School District are urged to assume ownership of one or more of the schools on Fort
27 Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base, and Eielson Air Force Base immediately upon
28 obligation of the funding necessary to bring each of these schools up to the minimum
29 acceptable standards; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Anchorage School District and Fairbanks North Star
31 Borough School District are urged to cooperate and assist in securing expeditious funding of
32 these schools and actively work until this problem is solved.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Anchorage Municipal Assembly, the
2 Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, the Anchorage School Board, and the Fairbanks
3 School Board; and to the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Richard Riley and U.S.
4 Department of Defense Secretary William Perry; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
5 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
6 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.