

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/15/94
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress to reevaluate its practice of imposing unfunded mandates on
2 state and local governments.

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

4 WHEREAS federal mandates require state and local governments to perform duties
5 without consideration of local circumstances, costs, or capacity under threat of financial
6 penalties for noncompliance; and

7 WHEREAS federal mandates require compliance regardless of other pressing local
8 needs and priorities affecting the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of a state, city, or
9 town; and

10 WHEREAS, when federal mandates are imposed without corresponding federal
11 financial assistance, they cause an excessive burden on state and local governments that forces
12 taxpayers to bear a combination of higher taxes or fees and reduced state and local services;
13 and

14 WHEREAS federal mandates often impose unrealistic time frames and specify the use
15 of particular procedures or facilities when less costly alternatives might be equally effective,
16 thereby unnecessarily increasing the cost of complying with the mandates; and

1 **WHEREAS** previously imposed unfunded mandates have resulted in harsh pressures
2 on state and local budgets, and the Congress appears to be continuing its past practice of
3 imposing new unfunded mandates on state and local governments; and

4 **WHEREAS** the cumulative burden of these unfunded mandates directly affects the
5 citizens of our states, cities, and towns;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the efforts of national,
7 state, and local organizations to fully inform citizens about the effects of unfunded federal
8 mandates on our governments and on individual citizens; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the members
10 of the Alaska delegation to work within the Congress to educate other members about the
11 effects of unfunded federal mandates, to promote reevaluation of the Congress's practice of
12 imposing unfunded mandates, and to take actions necessary to reduce their burden on our
13 citizens; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature urges the citizens of the state to support
15 congressional actions that will bring about an end to unfunded federal mandates.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
17 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President
18 Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House
19 of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
20 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
21 delegation in Congress.