

SCR
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SCR 1

Relating to the transferral of state
employment positions from urban areas
to rural areas.

Sumner

SUMMARY

This resolution requests the Governor to direct the appropriate state departments to conduct a study on the feasibility of transferring state employment positions from urban to rural areas. The study is to be presented to the second session of the 11th legislature by February 1, 1980.

FISCAL NOTE: Requested 1/31/79 from the Office of the Governor.
Expected by

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This was SCR 82 last session. It died in Senate Labor and Management Committee. This bill and other legislation relating to jobs all came out of a Job Symposium held by Sumner in 1977. The main backing of this bill, according to Sumner's office, is that state operations have been centralized in urban areas with no apparent necessity. There are many jobs that could be performed in rural areas without affecting the efficiency of duty performance, and providing employment in ~~rural areas~~ where it is greatly needed. (See example in attached statement from Sumner's office). Sumner will testify.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

INTERESTED PARTIES: Sen. Sumner
Office of the Governor

FROM SUMNER'S OFFICE
2/1/79

SCR 1

JOB TRANSFER

Senate Concurrent
Resolution 82
Senate Bill 537

Government is the major employer in the state. The state's operations have been centralized in urban areas -- with no apparent necessity. Permanent state employees are distributed throughout the state as follows:

20%	Juneau
36%	Anchorage
12%	Fairbanks
2%	Ketchikan
2%	Sitka
2%	Palmer
4%	Valdez
1½%	Nome
12%	scattered

During a committee meeting following the Jobs Symposium, Commissioner of Revenue Sterling Gallagher pointed out that his department needed a processing center for state tax returns. Following present state trends, the center would automatically be planned for an urban area even though a center could be located in a rural area without affecting the efficiency with which the duties are performed. The result would be jobs for Alaskans in an area where they are most needed.

The committee introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 82. The resolution requested the Governor to direct the appropriate departments to conduct a study to answer these two questions:

1) Which state positions could be transferred from Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks, to the more rural areas without affecting performance in the positions; and

2) which areas of the state would be most suitable for the transferral of state positions in terms of existing facilities and resources.

No action was taken on the resolution by the Senate Labor and Management Committee and it will be re-introduced during the 11th Legislature.

The committee also introduced Senate Bill 537 which requested a \$10,000 special appropriation to the Department of Revenue for a positions relocation feasibility study. The bill passed the Employment Resources and Opportunities Committee but no action was taken by the Senate Finance Committee.

Introduced: 1/18/79
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SUMNER

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the transferral of state
6 employment positions from urban areas
7 to rural areas.

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

9 WHEREAS unemployment is a problem which afflicts and has afflicted the
10 rural communities of the state more seriously than the more populated areas;
11 and

12 WHEREAS the state government is one of the leading providers of jobs in
13 Alaska; and

14 WHEREAS many positions in state government which are located in the high
15 population areas of the state could be performed in rural areas without
16 affecting the efficiency with which the duties of those positions can be
17 performed; and

18 WHEREAS the transferral of these positions into the rural areas of the
19 state would benefit the state by creating more employment positions where
20 they are most needed;

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
22 respectfully requested to direct the appropriate departments of the executive
23 branch of the state government to conduct a study to answer the following
24 questions:

25 (1) Which state employment positions could be transferred from
26 Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks to the more rural areas of the state without
27 affecting efficiency of performance in the positions?

28 (2) Which areas of the state would be most suitable for the trans-
29 ferral of state positions in terms of existing facilities and resources?

1 (3) Which areas of the state would be most benefited by the trans-
2 ferral of state positions in terms of existing unemployment conditions?

3 (4) What financial considerations might be relevant in terms of
4 costs for facilities, transportation of personnel, and benefits to local
5 governmental units?

6 (5) What other considerations, problems, and alternatives might be
7 relevant to the initiation of a program of position transferral? and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study shall be presented to the
9 Second Session - Eleventh Legislature no later than February 1, 1980.

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Friday

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