

**SB**

**46**



**FRAN ULMER**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF ALASKA

February 6, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol - Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Green:

Senate Bill 46, naming the new Alaska State ferry, was passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 5. The next committee of referral is Senate State Affairs, which you chair. I would greatly appreciate it if you would schedule a hearing on SB 46 as soon as your schedule allows.

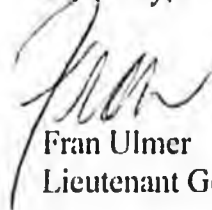
As you probably know, Alaska Statute 19.65.020 requires that ferries be named after glaciers. There are 609 named glaciers in Alaska. To help us choose a name for the new ferry, we ran a statewide essay contest among 6th through 8th grade children in November. The contest was coordinated through my office, but we had the help of the Department of Education (DOE), The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), House Speaker Gail Phillips and Senator Drue Pearce. Over 200 students across the state participated in the contest.

All essays went through preliminary judging, first at the local school level and at the school district level. The best of these essays were sent to DOE where a team of judges (Dr. Roger Pearson, head of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geography Department; Judy Bittner, Director of the state Office of History and Archaeology; Tom Steward, a retired judge from Juneau; and Judith Entwife, former Language Arts Specialist for the Department of Education) chose the ten best and forwarded them on for the final judging round.

On January 9, Senator Pearce, House Speaker Phillips and I met to make the final selection. After much discussion, we chose the essay and name submitted by 11-year old Leah Jarvis of Copper Center. "Kennicott," according to Leah, "is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of. It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous explorer."

I have included a copy of Leah's essay as background material. Also enclosed is a copy of the contest rules, the judging criteria sent to all schools, and various press releases which explain the contest. If you need more information on the process, please let me know. I hope you'll consider hearing SB 46 soon.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer  
Lieutenant Governor

Entry Form  
Alaska Marine Highway System:  
Name the Vessel Contest

Attach this form to the front of your essay.

Student Name Leah Jarvis  
Parent or Guardian Name Jonathan Jarvis  
Mailing Address P.O. Box 136  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
Home Phone (907) 822-3774 Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone (907) 822-5234  
Name of School Glennallen Elementary  
Grade Level 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student's age as of 11-22-96 11 years old

**Presentation.** The essay should be:

- Up to 750 words in length
- Typed and double spaced on plain white paper
- Your name and grade level on each page of the essay

**Judging the Essays.** Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

**Timeline.**

- November 22 Essays due to the schools
- December 2 Essays submitted to the school district
- December 10 Essays submitted to Department of Education
- January 3 Essays submitted for final judging
- January 13 Winner announced at opening of 1997 Alaska State Legislative Session

Leah Jarvis  
6th grade

## Famous Explorer, Robert Kennicott, to Appear on State Ferry

I think the new Alaska ferry should be named after the Kennicott Glacier. The Kennicott Glacier is a spectacular glacier located on the southern side of the Wrangell Mountains inside Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the largest national Park in the United States.

The Kennicott Glacier is a dazzlingly beautiful glacier that stretches for 27 miles and is 4 miles wide at the widest. The lines of moraine carried by the glacier cause it to look like a ribbon winding through the wilderness. The glacier flows off of 16,390 ft. Mt. Blackburn, which is one of the tallest peaks in North America. The Ahtna name for Mt. Blackburn, K'als'i Tl'aadi means "the one at cold waters." The Kennicott Glacier feeds into the Chitina River, a tributary of the Copper River, which is one of the largest rivers draining into the Gulf of Alaska.

In 1899, the Kennicott Glacier was named after pioneer explorer Robert Kennicott by Oscar Rohm, the first non-Native American to describe the Kennicott area. Kennicott was leader of the scientific corps of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition to Alaska of 1865-1867. The goal of this expedition was to build a telegraph line stretching all the way from California through Canada and Alaska, across the Bering Strait, through Russia and into Europe. Even though the line was never completed, the information Kennicott's team collected helped Congress to decide to buy Alaska from Russia.

Lieut. Henry T. Allen led the first non-native expedition up the Copper River in 1885. While traveling, Lt. Allen met Chief Nicolai, who told him the secret of the copper deposit near the Kennicott Glacier. This led to the development of the mining town of Kennecott<sup>1</sup>, the site of one of the richest copper discoveries in the world. A railroad was built along the Copper River to transport the copper ore from the mines in Kennecott to the coast so it could be shipped out. Cordova was established as a port for the ships

Leah Jarvis  
6th grade

carrying the ore. The Kennecott mine produced an astounding 214,000,000 lb. of copper and 9 million ounces of silver between 1904 and 1938.

The Copper River railway offered an all American route to the Alaskan interior, a route that was free of Canadian taxes. The railway extended for 196 miles, took 4 years to construct, and cost \$23,000,000 to build. In 1938, the mine shut down and the railway was closed due to lack of copper ore.

Today tourists can drive to Kennecott to see the old mining town and the Kennicott Glacier. I've been there and it is really neat to see the old mining town and the mine itself. You can walk among the crumbling buildings, and if you close your eyes and listen very hard you can almost see and hear the workers shouting to each other and the rumbling of the huge machines. Suddenly you open your eyes and come back to reality. But one thing has hardly changed from the time when the mine was working. The huge Kennicott Glacier still stretches in front of the whole place.

Kennicott is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of. It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous Alaska explorer. Because Robert Kennicott is an important part of Alaska's history, I think naming the ferry for him would honor this famous explorer greatly.

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One thing that I should clarify is that the correct spelling of the Kennicott Glacier is with an "i" instead of an "e". When the owners of the Kennecott mine got to Alaska, they misspelled Robert Kennicott's name and it became the common spelling of the name of the town and the mine.

State of Alaska  
**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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Post Office Box 110015  
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**NEWS RELEASE**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 1996

96/032

**Lieutenant Governor announces contest  
to name the new Alaska Marine Highway Ferry**

Alaskan students in grades six through eight will have the opportunity to participate in naming the new Alaska Marine Highway ferry which will be launched in July of 1997, according to Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer. "By statute, the ferry is named after an Alaskan glacier," Ulmer said. "We thought it would be educational and fun to let students choose the name through an essay contest." The contest is being coordinated through the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), and through the Lieutenant Governor's office with cooperation from the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

Each student who enters the contest will write an essay no more than 750 words telling why they chose a particular glacier name and submit it to their school. Judges at each school will choose the best essay and submit it to the school district where one essay will be chosen and submitted to the Department of Education. Private, charter and home school students can also participate by submitting their essays to their closest public school district. Ten essays will be chosen by judges at the Department of Education and submitted for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor. Essays will be judged on content, originality, geography standards, composition and writing skills, grammar and spelling.

All participants will receive a letter and certificate of appreciation. District winners will receive a photo of the vessel. The top ten winners will win a three day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. The winning essay will be permanently mounted on the new vessel and the winner and his/her parents will receive a six day ride, including a stateroom and meals, on any Marine Highway vessel. Entry forms will be mailed to all participating school districts by the end of October and students will have until November 22 to complete their essays. For more information or to request an entry form, call Glenda Carino at (907) 465-3521.

-30-

*Broadcast Advisory: Video actualities with Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer and DOTPF Commissioner Joe Perkins will be available on the Governor's window at 3:30 p.m. today.*

State of Alaska  
**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 15, 1996**

**STUDENTS WRITE ESSAYS TO NAME NEW STATE FERRY**

Construction of the Alaska Marine Highway System's new 380' ferry is proceeding on schedule at a ship yard in Moss Point, Mississippi. The ship is approximately 10 percent completed and has a July 1997 projected launch date. When the outfitting, test, and trials are completed, the vessel will be delivered to Alaska in May 1998.

The new ferry will be capable of taking over any of the current system routes in addition to cross-gulf service. New features on this vessel include outfitting to operate as a spill response command center, state of the art communications, a helicopter pad, and ADA accessibility. Amenities also include a theater, restaurant, coffee shop, and telephone kiosks with modem hook-ups.

While construction proceeds in Mississippi, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders across Alaska have been invited to write essays to suggest a name for the new ferry. By statute, all Alaska Marine Highway ferries must be named after an Alaska glacier. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education, and Marine Highway System are overseeing the essay contest to match up the glacier name with the new ship. Student essays are due to their schools on November 22. Each school will select one essay to forward to its school district. The school districts will each select one essay to forward to the Department of Education. DOE will then select ten finalists. The winning essay will be selected by Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, House Speaker Gail Phillips, and Senate President Drue Pearce. The winning name will be announced at the opening session of the 1997 legislature.

The student who proposes the winning name and his/her parents will receive a six-day cruise on a ferry and the essay will be permanently mounted in the new ferry. Students or educators wishing more information about the essay contest can contact Susan Favro in Juneau at 586-6341.

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**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 1997

97/002

**And the winner is...Leah Jarvis of Glennallen Elementary  
Copper River School District sixth grader writes winning essay  
Governor to introduce a bill naming the new ferry the MV Kennicott**

Leah Jarvis' essay was selected over nine others in the final round of judging to name Alaska's new state ferry. She was among more than 200 middle grade school students statewide to enter the contest and among the ten top essays reviewed in the final round of judging. The eleven year old is a sixth grader from Glennallen Elementary in Copper Center.

The judges--Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, Senator Drue Pearce, Co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee and House Speaker Gail Phillips--announced the winner today in a joint press conference held in the Speaker's Chambers. Jarvis' essay convinced Ulmer, Pearce and Phillips that the new ferry should be named the MV Kennicott in honor of the Kennicott Glacier which is located inside the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

"Kennicott is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of," wrote Jarvis. "It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous explorer." The explorer, Robert Kennicott, was the leader of the scientific corps of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition to Alaska from 1865 to 1867, according to the essay.

Speaker Phillips says she likes the name chosen by the sixth grader. "The name Kennicott stirs the romance and imagination of the hey days of one of the largest mining ventures in Alaska history," Phillips said. "It is a fitting name for our newest state ferry--it ties together our resource development and the transportation of not only our resources but our people."

"It was exciting to see the level of creativity expressed by all the students who submitted essays for the Name the Ferry Contest," said Senator Pearce. "While we had a rough time choosing a favorite, we felt the Kennicott name carries with it a rich and colorful history that is truly Alaskan. This name deserves to be on the bow of the state's newest ship."

-MORE-

Page 2  
Contest winner  
January 13, 1997

All essays went through preliminary judging, according to Ulmer. "Each school sent its best essay to their school district," she said, "then the school districts submitted the winners from their round of judging to the Department of Education where they were judged by Dr. Roger Pearson, head of UAF's Geography Department; Judy Bittner, Director of the state Office of History and Archaeology; Tom Stewart, a retired judge from Juneau; and Judith Entwife, former Language Arts Specialist for the Department. They picked the ten best and forwarded them to us for the final round."

Glennallen Elementary should be proud that Leah's essay made it through the rigorous judging, Ulmer said, but she also praised all students who entered the contest. "There were some amazing essays and some very convincing reasons why the ferry should carry the students' chosen glacier name," she said.

Since all state ferries must be named by statute, Ulmer says the Governor will introduce a bill on Tuesday designating the new state ferry the MV Kennicott. Leah Jarvis will be flown to Juneau to be honored when the Governor signs the bill. She and her parents will also receive a voucher for a six-day ferry trip, including stateroom and meals. The nine other essay contestants in the final round will receive free three-day trips.

State of Alaska  
**Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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**NEWS RELEASE**



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96/034

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 20, 1996

Name the Ferry Contest in it's final judging round  
Top ten finalists forwarded to Lieutenant Governor

The Department of Education (DOE) has picked the ten best essays from the finalists of 22 school districts. Over 200 essays were submitted by students sixth through eighth grades hoping to name the new Alaska state ferry, according to DOE staff member, Marjorie Menzie.

Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer received the essays from the Department this afternoon. "By statute, the ferry must be named after an Alaskan glacier," Ulmer explained. "The essay contest was launched in November in an effort to involve Alaska's middle grade students." The contest was coordinated through the Lieutenant Governor's Office, the Department of Education and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The top ten winners are to receive a three day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. In alphabetical order, they are:

Chystina Atkins, 6th grader from Fairbanks School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Kahiltna

Brendan Clancy, 6th grader from Delta Greely School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Trident

Everett Craik, 8th grader from S.E. Island School District  
suggested ferry name: MV La Perouse

Leah Jarvis, 6th grader from Copper River School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Kennicott

Jeremy Lehman, 6th grader from Anchorage School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Portage

Tony Mackie, 7th grader from Craig School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Seward

Rachel Naegele, 8th grader from Wasilla Christian School  
suggested ferry name: MV Okpilak

-more-

Devin Person, 6th grader from Iditarod School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Kahiltna

Mackenzie Slater, 6th grader from Juneau Home School Correspondence  
suggested ferry name: MV Muir

Jodie E. Totten, 6th grader from Sitka School District  
suggested ferry name: MV Muir

The Department of Education called on a team of experts to do the blind judging. They were: Judy Bittner, Office of History and Archeology; Judith Entwife, Former Language Arts Specialist at DOE; Dr. Roger Pearson, Head of the Geography Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Judge Tom Stewart. They reviewed each essay and ranked them according to originality, accuracy and completeness, composition and writing skills, grammar and spelling, ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice and conventions.

Ulmer has scheduled the final judging round to be held on January 9. The three judges include Ulmer, Representative Gail Phillips and Senator Drue Pearce. "We hope to name the winning entry on the first day of session," she said. "The winner will be brought to the Capitol for official recognition" Ulmer said, "as well as receive a six day ferry ride which will include a stateroom and meals for the winner and his/her parents."

The Department of Transportation expects the new ferry will be launched in the spring of 1997. The essay will be permanently displayed on the marine vessel, as well as the winning name.

## A Rundown on the Contest:

The laws of Alaska require a state ferry be named after an Alaska glacier. This essay contest will allow an student in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade to choose that name. Students will write an essay of up to 750 words explaining why they picked a particular glacier name.

Judges at each school will pick the best essay from that school and forward it on to the school district. The school district will then choose one essay and forward it on to the Department of Education. The Department of Education will choose the ten best essays and forward them to Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Senate President Drue Pearce, and Speaker of the House Gail Phillips for final judging. The essays will be judged on content, originality, composition and writing skills, grammar, and spelling.

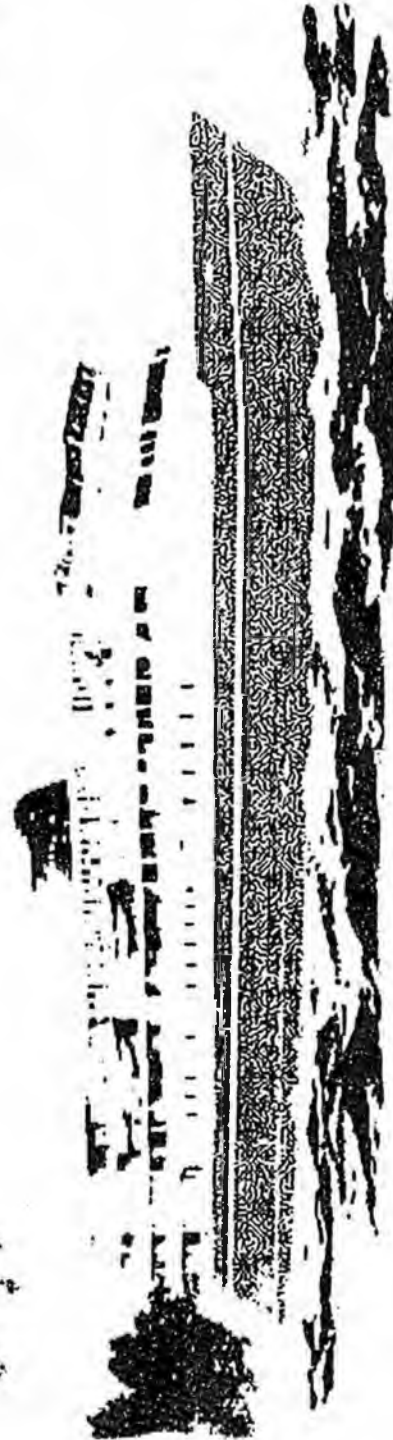
All participants will receive a letter and certificate of appreciation. District winners will receive a photo of the vessel. The top ten winners will win a three-day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. The winning essay will be permanently mounted on the new vessel, and the winner and his/her parents will receive a six-day cruise, including stateroom and meals, on any Marine Highway vessel.

**Essay due date:  
November 22, 1996**

This is a project developed and coordinated by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Alaska Marine Highway System, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Alaska Department of Education. If you have questions, call Susan Favro at Meeting Results in Juneau: 907/586-6341.

Fran Ulmer  
Lieutenant Governor  
P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

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# MIN?

## The Alaska Marine Highway System's new ferry needs a name

Write an essay to name a ferry and win:

- A 6-day cruise on one of the ferries, including a stateroom and meals (for both you and your parents)
- Your essay permanently displayed on the new ferry!



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY  
— A Proud Tradition —

Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 25535  
Juneau, AK 99802-5535

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/external/amhs/home.html>

## Did you know:

- An Alaska Marine Highway ferry has to be named after an Alaska glacier (it's the law!)
- Ten glacier names have been used (keep reading to find out which ones have been used)
- There are 599 more glacier names to choose from!

## Here's How You Do It:

Get a list of Alaska glacier names (your school should have the list or use the Internet)

From the list of glaciers, pick out a name for the new ferry (it's a 380 foot ocean cruiser!).

Write an essay of up to 750 words explaining why you selected the name. Be creative. Have fun with the essay.

Turn in your essay to your school. That's all there is to it!

## Searching for a Glacier Name?

Yes, it's true, there really are 609 named glaciers in Alaska. To see a list of these glaciers, you can contact your school librarian or public librarian, or use the Internet (go to [www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html](http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html)). There are ten glacier names that have already been used. The following glacier names cannot be used again:

Aurora  
Chilkat  
Le Conte  
Matanuska  
Tustumena

Bartlett  
Columbia  
Malaspina  
Taku  
Wickersham

## What makes for a winning essay—

**Creativity.** Use your imagination when picking out a name for the new ferry (but remember it has to be the name of an Alaskan glacier). Find that unique, original reason for using that name and write it down!

**Accuracy.** Find out about the glacier you've selected. What is the geographic, geologic, or historical significance of your selection?

**Writing Skills.** Your writing should be well organized. Develop your reasons for selecting the glacier name you chose.

**Spelling and Grammar.** Be watchful for spelling errors, typographical errors, and grammar usage. If you're using a computer, don't depend on the spell checker only. Proof your own work with your own eyes!

**Presentation.** The essay should be up to 750 words in length. It should be typed and double spaced on plain white paper. Make sure your name and grade level are on each page of your essay. Also, your school has an entry form that will be attached to your essay. Be sure to fill out all information requested on the entry form.

**Judging the Essays.** Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

**Timeline.** Essays are due on November 22. The essays go to the district on December 2 and to the Dept. of Education on December 10. The final judging will be done in time to announce the winner at the opening session of the 1997 legislature.

- Prizes for everyone who enters:
- Everyone gets a special appreciation certificate
  - District winners get a photo of the new ferry
  - Top ten selected essays get a 3-day ferry pass for themselves and their parents
  - The winning essay writer gets a 6-day cruise on a ferry (with a stateroom and meals) plus their essay is permanently displayed in the new ferry.

## The New Alaska Marine Highway Ocean Class Ferry

Length overall .....	380 feet
Maximum beam .....	85 feet
Draft, maximum .....	17.5 feet
Displacement .....	6,000 tons
Vehicle capacity .....	Southeast AK 120 cars/vans Gulf of Alaska 39 cars/20 vans
Passenger capacity .....	Southeast AK 750 Gulf of Alaska 500
Maximum design speed .....	19 knots
Service speed .....	16.75 knots
Lifeboats .....	four 150-person
Life rafts .....	50-person capacity each
Rescue boats .....	Two
Helicopter landing platform .....	55 sq ft.

**Entry Form**  
**Alaska Marine Highway System:**  
**Name the Vessel Contest**

Attach this form to the front of your essay.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Student's age as of 11-22-96 \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentation.** The essay should be:

- Up to 750 words in length
- Typed and double spaced on plain white paper
- Your name and grade level on each page of the essay

**Judging the Essays.** Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

**Timeline.**

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- December 10     Essays submitted to Department of Education
- January 3        Essays submitted for final judging
- January 13      Winner announced at opening of 1997  
Alaska State Legislative Session