

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2005-2006 2958

1 requirements for public highway and facility construction and maintenance;

2 (E) a recognized local expert representing affected Alaska  
3 communities;

4 (F) one member who represents affected resource development  
5 industries;

6 (G) one member who represents the affected tourism industries; and be  
7 it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall select a chairperson from among  
9 members of the legislature; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the commission may receive  
11 compensation for per diem or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred in serving  
12 on the commission; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission may meet during and between  
14 legislative sessions; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House and Senate Resources Committees may  
16 assign committee staff to provide support services for the commission; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the commission include the following:

18 (1) assess the current and potential effects of climate warming trends on the  
19 citizens, natural resources, public health, and economy of the state, in particular the adverse  
20 effects on natural resource development, forest safety, fish and game utilization,  
21 transportation, community, and resource development infrastructures;

22 (2) estimate costs to the state and its citizens of adverse effects associated with  
23 climate change;

24 (3) identify specific circumstances of flooding and erosion that have affected  
25 life, property, and economic and resource development in the state;

26 (4) examine alternative measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of  
27 flooding and erosion;

28 (5) develop policies to guide infrastructure investments in Alaska villages,  
29 cities, and boroughs that are most affected by flooding and erosion;

30 (6) recommend land use regulations, including area standards for designation  
31 of land prone to flooding and erosion;

Amendment #1

1 (7) investigate and assess issues involving permafrost and damage caused by  
2 permafrost;

3 (8) recommend policies to decrease the negative effects of climate change;  
4 and

5 (9) identify and coordinate efforts of mutual concern with federal, state, and  
6 local agencies; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall offer recommendations and  
8 provide possible solutions and preventative measures that can be implemented by Alaska  
9 communities and by the state and federal governments; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall conduct eight hearings  
11 throughout the state to fulfill its purpose; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall deliver a preliminary report of its  
13 findings to the legislature on March 1, 2007, and make a final report to the legislature on  
14 January 10, 2008, together with legislative proposals for consideration; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall be available for legislative  
16 hearing on its final report and recommendations; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the continuation or termination of the commission  
18 shall be reevaluated at the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State  
19 Legislature.

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Alaska State Legislature  
REPRESENTATIVE REGGIE JOULE

SPONSER STATEMENT

“Creating an Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission.”

House Concurrent Resolution 30 identifies and addresses many of the issues impacting Alaska that are the result of recent and ongoing changes in the climate. Climate change affects 184 coastal and river communities, or 86 percent of Alaska communities, in both rural and urban areas of the state. The impacts that confront Alaska with include: erosion, flooding, ice jams, glacial melts, rising sea level, changing river patterns, heavy rainfall, and the thawing of vital permafrost. Recent weather patterns have created warming trends that have jeopardized the health and well-being of Alaskans. There is a serious impact to current and future infrastructure and development due to the change in climate. This will, therefore, have a significant influence on the natural resources development in affected areas, which may negatively impact the revenue that the area produces for the state.

HCR 30 sets the groundwork to help Alaska cope with continuing climate change. HCR 30 provides the State of Alaska with a commission of qualified persons that will research, consult, and advise the legislature on ways to react to climate change emergencies and prevent or at least minimize future such incidents. Senator Ted Stevens is also introducing legislation to the U.S. Congress that addresses similar issues. The Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission will develop a comprehensive, preventative plan to address these issues that will help save lives, protect public health, preserve economic and resource development, and protect valuable infrastructure.

MCR 30

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