



# Alaska State Legislature

1967

Source:

SR 14

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

Relating to relocation of the village of Kwigillingok.

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### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS the Village of Kwigillingok is only slightly higher than the level of the high tide mark; and

WHEREAS Kwigillingok has suffered from severe flooding in times past; and

WHEREAS the floodings seem to have intensified since the earthquake of 1964; and

WHEREAS during times of winter flooding, in addition to salt water, great chunks of ice two feet thick and weighing tons are brought up to and in the village and these same chunks have the potential of crushing the homes and destroying human and animal life; and

WHEREAS the most recent flood, February 6, 1967, was within six inches from flooding the Bureau of Indian Affairs school which is on some of the highest ground in the village and many houses were flooded and suffered water damage; furniture, bedding and clothing were damaged; oil drums and oil storage tanks were damaged and floated away; electricity generators were under water; 30 - 40 dogs were drowned; many food caches for humans and dogs were filled and contaminated by the salt water; and

WHEREAS most of the fresh water tundra lakes were rendered impotable due to the salt water contamination and this required the location of new sources of drinking water in the form of

uncontaminated lakes which can only be found by "guessing" at their location and digging through five to six feet of snow again and again until their definite position is ascertained; these new water sites being further removed and in concentric circles five miles or more from the villages; the drinking material being in the form of ice which must be chipped into varying sizes and transported by snow power sleds of dog team to the cabins where the chips are melted into drinking and washing water; and

WHEREAS the people have indicated to various federal and state agencies of their desire to move to a new location approximately twenty miles down the coast to a site that is about twenty feet higher and have sought help for this move; and

WHEREAS at present, movement of the village is being effected by stages of cutting houses in half, moving half to the new site and leaving the other half for the family to live in while the children go to school; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned conditions seriously endanger the life, property and welfare of 350 Alaska men, women and children;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct appropriate agencies to aid the people of Kwigillingok in their need for planning and relocation; and to request the Alaska State Housing Authority to give Kwigillingok top priority and consideration with regard to Senator Bartlett's recently enacted housing program.