



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

SJR 102

SENATE

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to proposed Federal Communications Commission regulations regarding marine radio communications.

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

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission has recently proposed new regulations relating to marine radio communications which are to apply in all the states; and

WHEREAS these regulations provide that no new AM or double side band marine radio may be licensed after January 1, 1971, and if such a radio is licensed before that date, renewals may be had only up to January 1, 1977, at which time AM or double side band marine radios will be prohibited; and

WHEREAS in place of the old style radios, vessels will be required to have VHF FM radios; and

WHEREAS requiring this change-over will work great hardships on small boat and fishing boat operators in Alaska because of a variety of factors which distinguish marine operations in Alaska from those of other states; and

WHEREAS the VHF FM radio has only a 50-mile range and this factor could be disastrous to an Alaska marine vessel operator who may travel far greater distances than 50 miles from other vessels or land-based stations; and

WHEREAS, because the single side band transmitter is much more complex than an AM transmitter, it requires a greater monetary outlay for its purchase and it requires the services of only a most skilled radio technician; and

WHEREAS the great length of the Alaska coastline, the large area of the coastal waters, the lack of skilled radio technicians in the small fishing villages, and the scarcity of

coastal population centers required to support land-based marine stations, all demonstrate the urgent need for an exception for Alaska from the proposed F.C.C. marine radio communications regulations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Alaska Legislature requests that the Federal Communications Commission delay the effective date of its proposed marine radio communications regulations until hearings have been held in all of the major boating areas of Alaska to determine the feasibility of their application in the state.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dean Burch, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.