



Alaska State Legislature

1974

Source:

HJR 81

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 81

Relating to H.R. 3153, amending the Social Security Act.

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

WHEREAS there is pending before a conference committee of the Senate and House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States legislation making important substantive amendments to the Social Security Act that would have profound impact upon Alaskans and the administration of social services in this state; and

WHEREAS the bill would permit the states greater flexibility in administering social services than heretofore has been possible under restrictive HEW regulations and would, in effect, convert the present Social Security Act, as it affects social services, into a \$2.5 billion revenue-sharing program; and

WHEREAS the legislation would assure Alaska social services funding sufficient to maintain the level of expenditures in fiscal 1974 that were made in fiscal 1973; and

WHEREAS, importantly, the bill would exclude from income for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) purposes, the Alaska Longevity Bonus, and this represents a saving to the state as well as a considerable benefit to Alaskans who are bonus recipients; and

WHEREAS under the bill as presently amended the federal government would provide 100 per cent federal matching for Medicaid services to all Alaska Natives, not merely for those residing on or near reservations -- another significant saving in terms of state costs that broadens the options available to the state, which, among others, might include expansion of the Medicaid

program by widening eligibility to include the medically indigent and the elimination of general relief medical programs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature heartily endorses the efforts of the Alaska congressional delegation to assist in the development of amendments to the Social Security Act that will benefit all Alaskans and significantly improve the administration of social services in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the congressional delegation is urged to take whatever steps are required to ensure that the provisions of H.R. 3153 outlined above that are particularly beneficial to, and have an important impact on Alaska are retained in the final version of the bill that emerges from the Senate-House conference.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.