



Alaska State Legislature

1974

Source:

HR 2 am

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Requesting an investigation of the Department of Public Works, Division of Marine Transportation concerning the construction of the M/V COLUMBIA.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS it is evident that the M/V COLUMBIA, heralded as the replacement vessel for the M/V WICKERSHAM, will not be delivered to the State of Alaska to enable it to make its first sailing on the Inside Passage from Seattle to Skagway as scheduled on May 31; and

WHEREAS in view of the impending sale of the M/V WICKERSHAM it is imperative that the public and the legislature be fully informed as to the reasons for the delay of the COLUMBIA's entry into service in the state ferry system because it seems apparent that during the hiatus between the delivery of the WICKERSHAM to her new owners and the initial run of the COLUMBIA, passenger and vehicle traffic on the Alaska Marine Highway's Southeastern division will be delayed, reservations cancelled, and otherwise discommoded; and

WHEREAS an investigation of the practices and procedures of the Division of Marine Transportation in the award and management of the contract for the construction of the M/V COLUMBIA, although not alleviating the potential "traffic jam" on the marine highway during the heavily traveled summer months, at least would both inform the public and the legislature and, hopefully, preclude such delays in the future;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the Budget and Audit Committee to direct the Legislative Finance Division to conduct a thorough investigation into the management of the Division of Marine Transportation, Department

of Public Works, with respect to all aspects of the construction of the M/V COLUMBIA including but not limited to the original contract costs, cost overruns, and the nature of them, change orders, total final cost of construction, the principal reason or reasons for the delay in delivery of the vessel, any sacrifices in quality, kind of equipment and facilities that appear to be unreasonable, and a determination of (1) precisely when the ferry will be delivered to the state and when it will be in service, and (2) the loss of revenue to the state ferry system that will occur because of the sale and transfer of ownership of the M/V WICKERSHAM before the delivery of the M/V COLUMBIA; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Finance Division is respectfully requested to make its report to the House of Representatives not later than 30 days after adjournment of the Eighth Legislature, Second Session.