



Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

HCR 60 am S

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

Relating to the telecommunications policy of the state.

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

WHEREAS the communications needs of the state have never been adequately met because of the large extent and size of the state, the engineering and technical problems inherent in development of an adequate system under the previous state of the art; and

WHEREAS communications planning and policy are of vital and continuing interest to the public of the state, affecting the lives and personal welfare of the citizens at all levels of activity, in both urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS recent technological advances have rendered feasible improvements in Alaska's communications network not previously available; and

WHEREAS chief among those advances has been the development of a highly sophisticated and practical applied science relating to the use of synchronous-orbit communications satellites in conjunction with earthbound transmitting and receiving stations; and

WHEREAS the longlines long distance telephone carrier has recently proposed methods of serving the long-term communications needs of the state applying this advanced technology; and

WHEREAS both the state and federal governments are likely to be the major telecommunications users and customers in any expanded statewide communications network; and

WHEREAS the method of development and construction of a statewide system of satellite earth stations will determine the quality of future communications in Alaska for the next several decades; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has been investigating several alternative methods of assuring the protection of the public interest and the continued effective participation of the state in the long-range planning that will govern that development; and

WHEREAS one alternative would provide that procurement, construction, ownership and operation of satellite earth stations be entirely accomplished by the private longlines carrier with the state acting in an advisory capacity under terms of a contract of questionable enforceability; and

WHEREAS one other alternative would provide that procurement, construction and ownership be accomplished by the state, providing the state with permanent proprietary participation in telecommunications planning and policy; and

WHEREAS, while the Legislature of the State of Alaska does not wish the state to become extensively involved in the operations of the state's telecommunications network, it does find state ownership of satellite earth stations necessary and in the public interest;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska that the Governor is strongly urged to expeditiously proceed with the steps necessary to facilitate acquisition and installation of satellite earth stations including but not limited to television reception capability in numbers and according to specifications that will be determined by the Governor's Office of Telecommunications in consultation with the longlines carrier.