

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HCSSCR 57 am H

93



Relating to a legislative teleconferencing network.

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

WHEREAS the use of teleconferencing has been demonstrated to be useful and desirable in broadening the two-way contact between constituents and legislators; and

WHEREAS increased use of teleconferencing can extend legislative responsiveness to the public and can increase public confidence in the legislature;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislative Council is directed to form a Legislative Teleconferencing Network Task Force based upon the following criteria:

(1) The chairman of the Legislative Council shall be the chairman of the task force.

(2) The chairman of the Legislative Council shall appoint five members to the task force from the legislature to represent the reasonable needs of the legislature which a teleconferencing network must recognize in order to be successful. Preference shall be given to those legislators who represent communities receiving the first teleconferencing centers; however, no more than one legislator from each community may be appointed to the task force.

(3) The Legislative Council shall request the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission to appoint members to the task force to represent the reasonable needs of communities which a teleconferencing network must recognize in order to be successful. These members shall be appointed in accordance with the following guidelines:

(A) an equal number of members, representing the communities from which they are chosen, shall be chosen from each of the communities receiving the first teleconferencing centers;

(B) each member shall have demonstrated an involvement in community affairs and a commitment to increasing citizen participation in policy making;

(C) no member may have a financial interest in the telecommunications industry.

(4) The task force shall have no more than 20 members; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the task force is to make recommendations to the Legislative Council concerning a system design for a teleconferencing network based on the following guidelines:

(1) The system shall operate in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Juneau, and Nome with allowance for expansion into other communities in the future as those other communities develop the necessary technical capabilities.

(2) The system shall provide residents of the communities affected with an easy-to-use means of participating in legislative committee hearings and obtaining information about legislation.

(3) The system shall be a closed circuit system with transmission between the capital and centrally located community teleconferencing centers in the communities affected. Constituents wishing to testify shall report to these community teleconferencing centers in accordance with recommendations made by the task force.

(4) The system shall be operational by January 15, 1978.

(5) The task force shall consider both technical and managerial components of the system drawing upon the expertise of the state office of telecommunications and any legislative committee on telecommunications and make reasonable compromises in the event of conflicting needs of user groups; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted or construed as regulating any broadcasting entity, public or private, or in any manner interfering with efforts of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission to provide timely legislative news coverage; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that it is not the purpose of this resolution to provide a system for broadcasting committee hearings directly into people's homes, although that option may be made available to local broadcasters if they determine that local interest warrants it; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council shall receive the recommendations of the task force and, subject to the council's approval, transmit them to the Legislative

Affairs Agency for implementation and administration; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency may contract with the state office of telecommunications or other source of technical expertise for the implementation of the recommended program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that once operational the system shall be administered by the Legislative Affairs Agency, and when feasible the Legislative Affairs Agency may make the system available to other governmental agencies on a reimbursable-costs basis; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency shall carry out a program of public education and encouragement relating to the use of the legislative teleconferencing network system.