

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1980

Source

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Legislative
Resolve No.

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Relating to operations at bush airports in Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is the largest and most sparsely populated state in the Union, with numerous small communities broadly dispersed; and

WHEREAS these communities typically have no roads or other surface access to neighboring communities or to regional population centers for their basic needs; and

WHEREAS these communities are necessarily dependent on aviation for all aspects of their existence as well as for their communications with the outside world; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of these communities depend on aviation services provided from small, predominately unimproved airstrips ranging from 1,400 to 2,500 feet in length; and

WHEREAS remarkable advances in aviation technology, especially in short takeoff and landing (STOL) equipment have been made in the past few years; and

WHEREAS certain regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration adopted in 1952 have not been revised to take into consideration current STOL technology and capabilities; and

WHEREAS these regulations establish an arbitrary gross aircraft weight of 12,500 pounds for operations on bush airstrips in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the regulations largely prohibit STOL aircraft from operation on the very airfields for which they were designed; and

WHEREAS the permission to utilize STOL equipment on bush airstrips in Alaska would greatly enhance service to the rural communities by providing for the more regular and professional delivery of cargo too large or too heavy to be fitted into the aircraft presently used; and

WHEREAS the increased efficiency and capability of the use of STOL aircraft would achieve, among other things, a substantial, and a substantially needed, increase in the quality of life for the residents of the remote Native villages of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the use of STOL aircraft would help the 38 communities in Alaska that are presently suffering a substantial loss in the capability to generate electricity and heat because of difficulty in obtaining oil into the communities during the winter because of the inability of smaller aircraft to efficiently transport oil; and

WHEREAS the Governor of Alaska has recommended to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration by letter of January 24, 1980, that consideration be given to requests for exemptions from the regulations to resolve the matter and to provide assistance to the rural Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS exemption from regulation 14 C.F.R. section 135.385(b) and (c) of the Federal Aviation Administration would enable operation of such aircraft as the CARIBOU, CASA 212, and similar aircraft to serve the remote areas of the state; and

WHEREAS favorable consideration by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to a request for expedited consideration of the request under 14 C.F.R. sections 11.25(b)-(1) and 11.27 would enable service to begin earlier than might otherwise be possible;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration is urged to give prompt and favorable action to the requests that STOL freight aircraft be licensed for use at remote Alaskan airstrips.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; to the Honorable Langhorne M. Bond, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration; and 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.