

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1983

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCS CSSHJR 28(SA)

25



Relating to the processing of Native allotments.

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

WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management of the United States Department of the Interior has been given the responsibility for processing applications for allotments granted under the Native Allotment Act of 1906 and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS the present procedures of the Bureau of Land Management are moving so slowly that it has been publicly stated in Alaska that it will take no less than 20 years before the allotment applications now on file can be processed; and

WHEREAS the applications for the allotments have already been on file for 10 years or more; and

WHEREAS some applicants have died while their applications remain unprocessed resulting in unnecessary probate difficulties for the applicants' heirs; and

WHEREAS the land contained within the allotment applications represents the single most valuable asset for most of the individuals who have applied for the allotments; and

WHEREAS village corporations established under the settlement act may not receive title to their land until the privately owned land is transferred; and

WHEREAS the questions unresolved in these allotment applications cast a cloud on the title to the village corporation lands; and

WHEREAS the prospect of substantial delay in obtaining title

to the village land represents a substantial financial loss to the village corporations because it limits the possibility of the village corporations using their land;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Congress to provide adequate funding to the Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior, so that the bureau may carry out the responsibility to process applications for allotments given by Congress to the bureau over 77 years ago.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable James Watt, Secretary of the Interior; to Robert F. Burford, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.