

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1985

Source

SCS CSHJR 20 (L&C)

Legislative
Resolve No.

15



Relating to visa waivers for international airline passengers.

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

WHEREAS visa waivers would encourage eligible international airline passengers and other eligible nonimmigrants to visit the United States; and

WHEREAS all the states of the nation would realize an increase in tourism by granting visa waivers to eligible nonimmigrants; and

WHEREAS Alaska is particularly interested in securing a visa waiver program because tourism is an important element in the state's immediate future and a vital part of ensuring stable and continuing economic growth; and

WHEREAS 1,500,000 international airline passengers annually transit the Anchorage International Airport on the transpolar route between Europe and Asia; and

WHEREAS research by the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau reveals that among the annual airport transpolar passengers, 84 percent indicated an interest in the state, 80 percent vacation at least once a year in the period from September to May when the state needs more visitors, 62 percent like winter-oriented vacations, 50 percent could have planned a stopover in Anchorage, 50 percent would stop for four to seven days, and 76 percent are frequent transpolar route passengers and previously have landed in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS state revenue from transpolar passengers constitutes more than 50 percent of the revenue necessary to operate all international airports in the state; and

WHEREAS there is the strong likelihood that carriers on the transpolar route will no longer need this state as a refueling stop in the foreseeable future and passenger interest in visits or stopovers in the state will be the only incentive for transpolar air carriers to continue to stop in the state; and

WHEREAS one of several obstacles to a stopover in Alaska or any other state is the present requirement of a United States visa; and

WHEREAS last year Congress considered but failed to pass legislation providing for the granting of visa waivers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the President and the Congress of the United States to support the renewed effort to secure the waiver of visa requirements for eligible international airline passengers and other eligible nonimmigrants wishing to exercise stopover privileges in Alaska and other states.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader of the Senate, the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; 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.