

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1987

Source

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Legislative
Resolve No.

11



Relating to the promotion of the Iditarod Race.

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

WHEREAS the Iditarod Race is the longest sled dog race in the world; and

WHEREAS the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was conceived of and organized by Joe Redington, Sr., of Knik; and

WHEREAS the first race began in Anchorage on March 3, 1973, and ended at Nome on April 3, 1973; and

WHEREAS the race has been run every year since 1973 and in 1976 was declared Alaska's official sled dog race; and

WHEREAS in 1976, Congress declared the Iditarod as a National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS the Iditarod follows the old dog team mail route blazed in 1910 from Knik to Nome, crossing two mountain ranges, following the Yukon River for about 150 miles, going through several bush villages, and crossing the pack ice of Norton Sound; and

WHEREAS the Iditarod Race has become a major international racing challenge; and

WHEREAS the Iditarod has significance beyond the race itself because it commemorates a historic event: the successful effort of Leonhard Seppala to deliver 300,000 units of life-saving diphtheria serum to epidemic-threatened Nome; and

WHEREAS the commemoration of the historic event promotes tourism by portraying a positive image of Alaska throughout the

world;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to encourage the division of tourism in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to feature the Iditarod Race in its promotion of the State; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also requested to encourage the division of tourism to allocate more resources to the promotion of the Iditarod Race.