

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1987

Source

HCS SJR 13(SA)

Legislative
Resolve No.

2



Relating to United States Coast Guard reorganization.

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

WHEREAS the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard has announced a plan to relocate 78 military and civilian positions from Alaska, all of which are currently located in Juneau; and

WHEREAS the plan will have an inordinate effect on Juneau, forcing an estimated 360 people to relocate at a time when Juneau and the state as a whole are suffering from a substantial population loss because of an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS the relocation plan is likely to result in less active enforcement of fishing laws in the intense fisheries of the state, which could have a negative effect on the state's economy and efforts to develop international trade; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Coast Guard conducts vital search and rescue missions for Alaska fishermen and, by its efforts, has saved many lives; and

WHEREAS the fatality rate from recreational boating accidents in Alaska is 20 times the national average, so it is imperative that the U.S. Coast Guard maintain its ability to provide timely response on rescue missions; and

WHEREAS the increasing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska, national security interests, and increasing foreign fishing off Alaska all indicate a need for a greater U.S. Coast Guard presence in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the state's geographic isolation from the rest of the nation, unique environment, and vast coastal area make it impossible for the U.S. Coast Guard to cover Alaska from bases

outside the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the portion of the United States Coast Guard reorganization plan that calls for the relocation of Coast Guard personnel from Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by the Alaska delegation in the Congress to keep United States Coast Guard positions in Alaska and to centralize support services in Alaska, rather than in other locations in the United States.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of Transportation; and Admiral Paul A. Yost, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; 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.