

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1987

Source

CSHJR 19 (L&C) (title am)

Legislative
Resolve No.

33



Relating to resident hire on federal projects and jobs in the state.

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

WHEREAS because of its unique climate and its distance from the contiguous states, Alaska has historically suffered from unique social, geographic, and economic conditions that result in an unstable economy; and

WHEREAS the promotion of a resident-based workforce is good local, state, and federal public policy; and

WHEREAS the rate of unemployment among residents of the state is one of the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS the unstable economy is a hardship on the residents of the state and is aggravated by the large numbers of seasonal and transient workers; and

WHEREAS chronic unemployment leads to severe social problems, including crime, alcoholism, domestic violence, suicide, child abuse, and drug abuse; and

WHEREAS the number of state residents who are unable to find work is considerably higher than is reflected by unemployment rates based on nationally accepted measures, in part because many rural state residents who wish to work do not seek employment as frequently as necessary to meet federal definitions of unemployment because of continuing lack of employment opportunities in rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS construction projects funded wholly or partially with federal funds have traditionally accounted for a substantial percentage of the available employment in the state; and

WHEREAS federal construction spending in Alaska has a significantly greater effect on the state's economy than is the case in most other states; and

WHEREAS permanent, temporary, and seasonal jobs funded through federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service have traditionally accounted for a substantial percentage of the available jobs in Alaska, particularly in rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS it is inherently fair that unemployed local residents in areas of high unemployment have first chance at being hired for jobs created by government spending in those areas; and

WHEREAS, for constitutional reasons, many aspects of laws requiring local hire for government funded projects are better addressed by federal legislation than by state legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the federal government to hire as many state residents as possible and practicable for federal positions located in the state, including temporary and seasonal positions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that members of the Alaska delegation in Congress are requested to introduce and seek the passage of federal legislation giving an employment preference to unemployed qualified state residents on all construction projects in the state that are wholly or partially funded with federal funds.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable William E. Brock III, Secretary of Labor; 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; and to John Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations, Office of the Governor.