

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SJR 21

23



Encouraging favorable consideration of a state grant application by the division of vocational rehabilitation of the Department of Education for federal funds to provide assistive technology devices and services.

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

WHEREAS there have been major advances in the development of technological devices and services that can assist individuals who have disabilities with many tasks; and

WHEREAS assistive technology would enable some individuals with disabilities to have greater control over their own lives; to participate in and contribute more fully to activities in their home, school, and work environments, and in their communities; to interact to a greater extent with nondisabled individuals; and to otherwise benefit from opportunities that are taken for granted by individuals who do not have disabilities; and

WHEREAS the use of assistive technology devices and services by individuals with disabilities can reduce the costs of the disabilities to society, individuals with disabilities, and families of individuals with disabilities by reducing expenditures associated with early intervention, education, rehabilitation, health care, transportation, telecommunication services, and other services required by individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS many individuals with disabilities do not have access to the assistive technology devices and sensitive technology services that they need to function in society commensurate with their abilities; and

WHEREAS Alaska does not have a comprehensive program for making technology-related assistance available to individuals with disabilities because the state lacks the resources to pay for the devices and services and to pay trained personnel to provide assistance, information, and coordination of services to those in need of the technology; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 1988, Congress enacted the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-407); and

WHEREAS the Congress has made available 10 grants of \$500,000 each so that the states will have the financial resources to begin to provide assistive technology devices and services to its citizens in need of the technology; and

WHEREAS disabled Alaskans and their families would greatly benefit from the establishment of such a program;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports and encourages efforts made by the state to be among the first 10 states to receive a grant to establish a program to provide assistive technology devices and services as set out in P.L. 100-407; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of Education to give positive consideration to the State of Alaska's request for a grant this year and in future years; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska Congressional delegation to support the state's grant application through all appropriate means.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lauro F. Cavazos, Secretary of Education; 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.