

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

SCS HCR 27(Fin)

Legislative
Resolve No.

28



Relating to the state's Russian Orthodox churches.

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

WHEREAS the history of the state has been enriched by the contributions of its early Russian settlers; and

WHEREAS Russian Orthodox churches have been built in many parts of the state, including the Aleutian Islands; the Kenai Peninsula; the Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet, and Nushagak regions; the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta; the Seward Peninsula; and Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the state's Russian Orthodox churches and the cathedrals at Unalaska, Sitka, and Kenai represent the Russian heritage that is today reflected in the religion and traditions of many of the state's Native people; and

WHEREAS Unalaska's Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, portions of which may date from 1826, has a rich collection of icons, which are religious objects executed in the Russian Orthodox style, books, and other artifacts that convey the craftsmanship and artistry of the Aleut and Russian people; and

WHEREAS in 1970 the United States Secretary of the Interior designated Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church as a national historic landmark because of its exceptional value to our nation's history; and

WHEREAS the long-term preservation of the church and the valuable artifacts that it contains is being jeopardized by the serious deterioration of the church; thus endangering one of the most significant collections of Russian Orthodox art in the state; and

WHEREAS it is important that steps be taken to preserve the history contained in those Russian Orthodox church buildings located across the state that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and that are historic landmarks to ensure that future generations can benefit from the rich cultural and religious contributions of Russia; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Office of the United States National Park Service, which is preparing an historic American building survey, and the Icon Preservation Task Force have expressed an interest in participating with the state in compiling an inventory and documentation of the Russian Orthodox churches in the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor and the state office of history and archeology to inventory and document the art and architecture of the state's Russian Orthodox churches listed in the National Register of Historic Places including, in particular, the Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church in Unalaska.