

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

SCS HJR 80 (C&RA)

Legislative
Resolve No.

127



Urging revision of housing requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to improve design, construction, and maintenance of homes in rural Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development plays a leading role in providing housing in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS most of those homeowners are not involved in construction decisions about the homes in which they will live and for which they will ultimately pay the energy bills; and

WHEREAS the Rural Housing Needs Assessment found that the owners of 36 percent of rural homes could not maintain a comfortable inside temperature within their homes, despite paying extremely high winter heating bills; and

WHEREAS the state spends tens of millions of dollars annually in subsidizing the costs of heating fuel and electricity and in providing weatherization assistance to substandard homes; and

WHEREAS, by designing and constructing homes to meet energy standards appropriate to the state's climate, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development could help reduce these costs substantially; and

WHEREAS the current maximum amount that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development makes available for the construction of a rural home is too low to ensure that the home constructed may be affordably heated; and

WHEREAS the department's Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program, providing resources to regional housing authorities to retrofit existing department-assisted homes, is overly restrictive in its eligibility requirements for mutual help

housing, the predominant housing assistance program for rural Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development provide greater flexibility in allowing regional housing authorities to allocate more money per residence for the design and construction of the residence and instruction in maintenance techniques to improve its energy efficiency and structural integrity; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests that the Congress give greater flexibility in the use of the Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program for mutual help housing, to allow existing department-assisted homes to meet minimum energy efficiency standards and to make repairs for structural damages that affect energy efficiency.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jack Kemp, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 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.