

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

SCS CSHJR. 85 (SA)

Legislative
Resolve No.

84



Relating to baseball between teams from Pacific Rim nations.

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

WHEREAS baseball is universally recognized as America's national pastime and an important part of the American culture; and

WHEREAS Alaska has a rich and historic association with organized baseball dating back to the late 19th century and the early 20th century when organized league baseball was played in Nome, Ketchikan, and Juneau; and

WHEREAS Alaska is recognized as being "number one" in non-professional baseball by baseball authorities because of domination of the National Baseball Congress World Series in Wichita, Kansas, and the U.S. Open Tournament by Alaskan baseball teams; and

WHEREAS Alaska quickly made its presence known in the National Baseball Congress World Series in 1962 with an auspicious first year performance; led by their founder and firebrand coach H. A. "Red" Boucher, the Pan Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks, now known as the Alaska Goldpanners, entered a field of 32 teams seeded number 33 but only narrowly lost the championship game on a controversial call that year; and

WHEREAS since 1969 when the first year Anchorage Glacier Pilots captured the National Baseball Congress crown for Alaska, 10 National championships in all have been brought back to Alaska, three by Anchorage, five by Fairbanks, and one each by Mat-Su and Kenai; and

WHEREAS Alaska baseball teams have a long history of playing in international tournaments such as the World Tournament in

Japan, the Canada International in Kamloops, and the Goodwill Tour in Holland and Japan; and

WHEREAS seven international championships have been brought back to Alaska, four from the Canada International by the Alaska Goldpanners and one from the North Pole Nicks, one from the U.S. Open by the Alaska Goldpanners, and one from the World Tournament by the Alaska Goldpanners; and

WHEREAS it required the foresight of the founders of nonprofessional baseball in Alaska to use local, national collegiate, and former professional players to build a nationally renowned summer baseball league; and

WHEREAS the work of the founders of nonprofessional baseball and those who followed them have brought prestige and a high caliber of play in Alaska, consistently producing future major league stars; beginning with Dave Dowling, the first Alaska player to make it to the majors, scores of future major league stars have played summer baseball under the midnight sun; and

WHEREAS, much like the State of Alaska itself, nonprofessional baseball in Alaska is turning to the Pacific Rim to form partnerships; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Amateur Sports Authority seeks to attract athletic competition to Alaska by amateur athletes; and

WHEREAS several countries in the Pacific Rim, including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the Soviet Union have established or are developing baseball teams and leagues; and

WHEREAS competition between Alaska and our Pacific Rim neighbors will help forge friendly alliances that will foster important economic alliances and promote harmony among the nations; and

WHEREAS competition with Pacific Rim baseball teams would help bring additional national stature and new international attention to Alaska, and help promote tourism;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature heartily endorses competition between Alaska's nonprofessional baseball teams and baseball teams from the Pacific Rim nations of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the Soviet Union; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the assistance of the Alaska Amateur Sports Authority, the Governor's Office of International Trade, and the United States Department of State in allowing baseball teams from the Pacific Rim Countries, especially the Soviet Union, to travel to and compete in Alaska and for Alaska teams to reciprocate.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A. Baker, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Steve Cowper, Governor; to Fay Vincent, Commissioner of Baseball; to Emmitt Wilson, Commissioner of the Alaska Baseball League; Steven Bush, Executive Director of the Alaska Amateur Sports Authority; 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.