

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1994

Source
HJR 47 am

Legislative
Resolve No.
56



Relating to schools on military installations.

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

WHEREAS nine schools located at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Eielson Air Force Base, and Fort Richardson Army Base, namely, Aurora Elementary, Mount Iliamna Elementary, Mt. Spurr Elementary, Orion Elementary, John F. Kennedy Elementary, Ursa Minor Elementary, Ben Eielson Jr. and Sr. High School, Anderson Elementary, Taylor Elementary, and Pennell Elementary, fail to meet minimum acceptable standards established by the respective school districts; and

WHEREAS Taylor Elementary and Pennell Elementary are in a state of deterioration and disrepair, and it is more cost effective and feasible to build one new school to replace them rather than to attempt to repair them; and

WHEREAS the other seven schools, which contain numerous fire, life, and safety problems, will continue to deteriorate, and the problems will be exacerbated if immediate action is not taken; and

WHEREAS the federal government presently owns these schools; and

WHEREAS the respective school districts have agreed to assume ownership of these

schools provided minimum safety standards are met; and

WHEREAS a total of \$52,198,600 is required to bring these schools up to minimum acceptable standards; and

WHEREAS, once transfer of ownership of these base schools is completed, future funding needs for these schools can be met through the same funding avenues used for other schools within the respective school districts; and

WHEREAS the state is committed to providing school children on military installations with an education equal to that of other children in the state as evidenced by past funding of the new Ladd Elementary School on Fort Wainright; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Education and Department of Defense have previously indicated a willingness to support appropriation of federal funds to fully fund the remaining upgrades and replacements of these facilities; and

WHEREAS the state is committed to exploring avenues to finance the upgrade of the schools to ensure that the quality of education of school children on military installations is not compromised; and

WHEREAS the state is committed to ensuring that no child or teacher in the state be exposed daily to life, safety, and health hazards; and

WHEREAS the state recognizes that the military installations are a vital part of the state's economy and that it is essential to provide basic services to meet the needs of the military installation personnel;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Department of Education and Department of Defense are urged to cooperate and assist in securing the funding necessary to bring these schools up to minimum acceptable district standards as expeditiously as possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage School District and Fairbanks North Star Borough School District are urged to assume ownership of one or more of the schools on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base, and Eielson Air Force Base immediately upon obligation of the funding necessary to bring each of these schools up to the minimum acceptable standards; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage School District and Fairbanks North

Star Borough School District are urged to cooperate and assist in securing expeditious funding of these schools and actively work until this problem is solved.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Anchorage Municipal Assembly, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, the Anchorage School Board, and the Fairbanks School Board; and to the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Richard Riley and U.S. Department of Defense Secretary William Perry; 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.