

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1997

Source
HCS SCR 6(HES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
LR 22



Relating to the Alaska Telemedicine Project.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project, founded by the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Providence Health Systems in Alaska, and AT&T Alascom, is a private/public consortium of over 34 telecommunications carriers and health care organizations, including Native health corporations, dedicated to using telecommunications and information technology to improve the delivery of health care to all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project is beginning its fourth year of operations; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has predicated its existence on the idea that "our" health care dollars must be used wisely, and that advances in telecommunications and information technology offer the promise of health care system re-engineering that can both contain costs of health care and improve the quality of health care for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed planning for narrow bandwidth telemedicine and telehealth applications that has been predicated on current and planned end user telecommunications and information technology systems in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been dedicated to assessing the needs

of all health care organizations in the state, demonstrating appropriate telemedicine and telehealth technologies and applications scaled to Alaska's current and planned infrastructure, and evaluating these demonstration projects for cost and benefit, satisfaction, and use; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has developed an evaluation method, sanctioned by the National Library of Medicine, designed to reveal cost and benefits, satisfaction, and use of telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies scaled to Alaska's current and planned telecommunications and information technology infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has established a nonprofit Alaska TeleHealth Network for e-mail, digital imagery, and continuing medical and health care information and education throughout the state; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been recognized by the government of Romania, the National Library of Medicine, and the United States Department of Commerce as a model for telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies in rural America and developing nations; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed all these accomplishments without new, dedicated funding from the state; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project will not preclude other entities within the state from applying for funding for technology, but support them in their efforts to develop partnerships to secure funding and expertise in the telemedicine field;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Telemedicine Project, its founding organizations, and commends its leadership for advancing telemedicine and telehealth in the State of Alaska.