

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

1979

Source

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Senate

Resolve No.

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Relating to ownership of earth stations.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS communications planning and policy are of vital and continuing interest to the citizens of the state -- affecting their lives and personal welfare at all levels of activity, in both urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS recent technological advances have rendered feasible improvements in Alaska's communications network not previously available; and

WHEREAS chief among those advances has been the development of a highly sophisticated and practical applied science relating to the use of synchronous-orbit communications satellites in conjunction with earthbound transmitting and receiving stations; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of those factors, the Alaska State Legislature resolved in House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975) to urge the Governor, through the office of telecommunications, to acquire and install satellite earth stations in consultation with the state's long lines carrier; and

WHEREAS, under House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975), the office of telecommunications and the long lines carrier entered into a series of three agreements providing for the installation, operation, and maintenance of 100 small earth stations in the rural areas of Alaska by the long lines carrier; and

WHEREAS the construction of the 100 small earth stations has been concluded, bringing the benefits of modern satellite communications to the remote areas of the state, and thereby

achieving the goals and purposes of the legislature expressed in House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 (1975); and

WHEREAS the telephone carriers have represented to the appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies their readiness, willingness, and ability to provide the monetary and physical resources necessary to provide such services, and to reimburse the state, on an equitable basis, for its capital expenditures pertaining to the 100 small earth stations; and

WHEREAS optimum telecommunications service can now best be provided by private industry, under the auspices of the appropriate state and federal regulatory commissions; and

WHEREAS the legislature has recognized that satellite television services will promote the general public health and well-being of Alaska citizens; and

WHEREAS the legislature has authorized continued funding of the television demonstration project; and

WHEREAS the long lines carrier has offered to reduce the rate for television services funded by the state from \$2,145,000 annually to \$750,000 annually for a period of three years in return for the ownership of the earth stations and related equipment, subject to the approval of the appropriate regulatory bodies if the equipment is independently valued at not less than \$4,185,000; and

WHEREAS the Governor has expressed interest in reducing state funding of television services; and

WHEREAS a reduction in annual rates will facilitate the ability of private enterprise to fund the television services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate respectfully requests and urges the Governor to negotiate with the long lines carrier the exchange of small earth stations for television service and if an accepted agreement is reached to withdraw the state's applications for satellite earth stations at those locations where there are no competing applications, other than by the long lines carrier, for ownership of that equipment, and further requests and urges the Governor to support private ownership of telecommunications facilities.