

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1986

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HCS CSSCR 36(Fin)

53



Establishing a joint special committee on mental health trust land.

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

WHEREAS the United States Congress granted 1,000,000 acres of land to the Territory of Alaska to be administered as a public trust for the necessary expenses and support of mental health in the territory; and

WHEREAS in October 1985, the Alaska Supreme Court determined that the 1978 decision of the Alaska Legislature to redesignate mental health trust land as general grant land had breached the trust established by the Congress; and

WHEREAS the funding level for the mental health programs in the state is one of the lowest in the nation on a per capita basis; and

WHEREAS the legislature, the administration, and mental health advocates agree that the state must comply with the intent of the Congress that mental health programs in the state receive sufficient funding; and

WHEREAS it is not in the public interest that continued litigation over the mental health land trust divert attention from the underlying goal of increased funding for mental health programs and care in the state; and

WHEREAS present state statutes do not explicitly provide for the management of mental health trust land for maximum revenue production; and

WHEREAS the return of mental health trust land to trust status precludes management of mental health trust land for its highest and best use;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that a Joint Special Committee on Mental Health Trust Land is established under Uniform Rule 21; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Special Committee on Mental Health Trust Land is composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and two public members interested in the mental health trust land issue; the public members shall be selected by the other members of the Joint Special Committee on Mental Health Trust Land; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that one member appointed from the House of Representatives be from the membership of the House Finance Committee and one member appointed from the Senate be from the membership of the Senate Finance Committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Special Committee on Mental Health Trust Land develop, after public hearings, a proposal to resolve the mental health trust litigation and recommend a level of appropriations adequate to provide sufficient funding for mental health programs in the future; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is authorized to meet during and between sessions of the legislature and is to report its recommendations and findings on the first day of the First Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee terminates on the 10th day of the First Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature.