

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2016**

**Source**  
CSHCR 10(FSH)

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
31



Supporting the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center in Seward, and further efforts to carry out the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan.

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

**WHEREAS** the maritime industry in the state includes seafood harvesting, seafood processing, vessel construction and repair, research, resource enhancement and management, marine transportation and freight, and other activities or services; and

**WHEREAS** those services and activities have only recently become widely recognized as making up a discrete maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** the maritime industry in the state consists of more than 500 businesses and a workforce of 68,000 persons, making the industry the largest private sector employer in the state; and

**WHEREAS** significant economic benefits resulting directly from activity in the maritime industry include, for example, the addition of \$6,750,000,000 to the state's economy

in 2011; and

**WHEREAS** significant economic benefits resulting indirectly from activity in the maritime industry include, for example, the addition of \$1,000,000,000 to the state's economy in 2011 from transportation spending related to the maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** approximately 50 percent of persons employed in the state's maritime industry are residents of the state; and

**WHEREAS** the number of maritime industry jobs in the state that require a high level of technical and professional skill is increasing; and

**WHEREAS** the maritime industry in the state seeks to increase the number of state residents who have the technical skills, professional skills, and motivation to succeed in the maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee was established to work with employers, state agencies, the University of Alaska, and other regional and local providers of vocational education and technical training to implement the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to succeed, the plan requires that the maritime industry, educators, state government, and regional and local providers of vocational education and technical training collaborate to increase the number of state residents who have the technical skills, professional skills, and motivation to succeed in the maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** the plan seeks to increase career awareness, workforce recruitment and retention, and training in job readiness and core competencies; and

**WHEREAS** the plan seeks to increase professional development in emerging and high-demand occupational categories, including 23 categories the plan specifically identifies; and

**WHEREAS** the best way to carry out the plan is for the industry to lead a collaboration with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the University of Alaska, regional and local providers of vocational education and technical training, community development quota organizations, tribal and local governments, and public and private schools; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is assigned the task of advising the state regarding plans to train and prepare Alaskans for jobs in the state in order to promote growth in the state's economy; and

**WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is to build connections that place Alaskans in good jobs, and that goal keeps the board focused on developing a workforce system that is useful, accessible, and understandable to businesses seeking qualified workers, unemployed Alaskans searching for jobs, and employees seeking to upgrade their work skills to meet demands and opportunities in a changing workplace; and

**WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is to increase resident hire to 75 percent of total hires in the maritime industry by 2020; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Training Center is approved by the United States Coast Guard to offer both standard training and training tailored to the specific needs of the maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Maritime Training Center delivers training in modern classrooms and with the latest training tools and technology, including a world-class ship simulator and a state-of-the-art, computer-based navigational laboratory; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska has more coastline than the other 49 states combined; and

**WHEREAS** the marine environment of the state is one of the world's most challenging for the maritime industry; and

**WHEREAS** qualified marine captains and other qualified marine crewmembers are needed to ensure the safe transport of passengers and freight and the safety of commercial fishing operations in the state's navigable waters; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center, which is housed in the joint Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center and United States Coast Guard training facility in Seward, Alaska, is the foundation of maritime industry workforce delivery in the state; and

**WHEREAS** a goal of the Alaska Maritime Training Center is to promote the safe transport of passengers and freight and safe commercial fishing operations in the state's navigable waters by training marine captains and other marine crewmembers for employment in the maritime industry workforce in the state; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature in Legislative Resolve 36, Twenty-Seventh

Alaska State Legislature, identified maritime workforce development as a priority;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, and the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center and calls for further collaboration between the maritime industry, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the University of Alaska, regional and local providers of vocational education and technical training, community development quota organizations, tribal and local governments, public and private schools, and other stakeholders to implement the plan; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall appoint a member of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the House of Representatives to liaise with the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee to ensure that members of the legislature are kept informed regarding implementation of the plan; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the governor to direct the commissioner of education and early development, the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development, the commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of labor and workforce development, the commissioner of transportation and public facilities, and the president of the University of Alaska to collaborate with the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee regarding implementation of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan and, by January 30, 2016, deliver a report regarding that collaboration and plans for further collaboration to the Senate Secretary and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available.