

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5(ARC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE ARCTIC

Offered: 4/6/15

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HERRON, Guttenberg, Tuck, Josephson, Kawasaki

A RESOLUTION

1 **Declaring 2015, 2016, and 2017 to be the Years of the Arctic; encouraging the state and**
2 **its partners to join with the Institute of the North in encouraging the state to promote its**
3 **Arctic policy during the Years of the Arctic and to take action to address the strategic**
4 **recommendations in the Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** residents of the state are at the forefront of emerging economic and
7 resource development opportunities, vibrant healthy communities, and circumpolar
8 cooperation; and

9 **WHEREAS** the vision of the state for the Arctic is based on economic resource
10 development, a healthy environment, secure and safe communities, and transparent decision
11 making; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is an integral part of the identity of the state, home to many
13 residents of the state, and an important part of the history, culture, and prosperity of the state;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is a significant geopolitical feature of the nation; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is becoming increasingly accessible, presenting a multitude of
2 opportunities that should be realized; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Implementation Plan, released by the Alaska Arctic Policy
4 Commission, highlights the critical importance of the Arctic to the future of the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** there is a need to strengthen international collaboration, promote
6 economic and resource development, and continue to cultivate healthy communities and a
7 healthy environment in the Arctic; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States will chair the Arctic Council from April 2015 to
9 May 2017; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state should anticipate increased national and international attention
11 during this period; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature continues to encourage the United States
13 Department of State to work with the state to hold as many meetings of the Senior Arctic
14 Officials as possible in the state during the two-year Arctic Council chairmanship of the
15 United States; and

16 **WHEREAS** the members of the Senate Special Committee on the Arctic and the
17 House Special Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy would like
18 to join the efforts of the governor as ex officio members of the state's host committee for the
19 Arctic Council and the working groups of the Arctic Council; and

20 **WHEREAS** nothing in this resolution supports, endorses, or opposes the
21 reestablishment of the Alaska coastal zone management program that expired in 2011 and was
22 rejected by the state voters in 2012; and

23 **WHEREAS** nothing in this resolution supports, endorses, or opposes the United
24 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares 2015, 2016, and 2017
26 to be the Years of the Arctic, a period during which the state should make every effort to
27 highlight the importance of the Arctic to residents of the state and nation; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state and
29 its partners to join with the Institute of the North in encouraging the state to promote its Arctic
30 policy and broadening awareness of Arctic issues; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state to

- 1 take action during the Years of the Arctic to address the strategic recommendations in the
- 2 Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.