

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/20/15

Referred: Taken Up

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing a Senate Special Committee on the Arctic.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

3 **WHEREAS** this state is what makes the United States an Arctic nation; and

4 **WHEREAS** the interests of the state are directly affected by Arctic policy; and

5 **WHEREAS** residents of the state, having lived and worked in the Arctic region for
6 decades, have developed expert knowledge regarding a full range of activities and issues
7 involving the region; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region is now framed by increasing activity, change,
9 opportunity, globalization, resource development, a sensitive environment, and rich and
10 diverse cultures; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region is a dynamic place that is changing rapidly; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region is becoming increasingly accessible because of
13 receding sea ice and technological advances; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region constitutes the final frontier in exploration and
15 opportunity; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Northern Sea Route along the coast of Russia and through the Bering

1 Strait is 40 percent shorter than the shipping route through the Suez Canal for shipping
2 between Europe and Asia and is being increasingly used; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region contains 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural
4 gas and 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil; and

5 **WHEREAS** the development of the state's natural resources is essential to the well-
6 being of the residents of the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region represents one of the best opportunities for progress
8 and economic development in the state; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States and other nations are rapidly developing Arctic
10 strategies and policies; and

11 **WHEREAS** it is essential that the federal government consult with the state when
12 developing national Arctic strategies and policies; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region of the United States has a severe infrastructure deficit
14 that creates a barrier to capitalizing fully on emerging opportunities in natural resource
15 extraction, shipping, and tourism; and

16 **WHEREAS** capital intensity, federal regulatory uncertainty, and diminished access to
17 state land through federal land holdings constitute barriers to the economic development of
18 the Arctic region; and

19 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region of the United States has some of the highest energy
20 costs in the nation; and

21 **WHEREAS** the use of science by the University of Alaska, the world's premier Arctic
22 university, and of emerging technologies developed by residents of the state may create new
23 ways to give an advantage to the state in the Arctic region; and

24 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission is a nonpolitical body of
25 legislators and experts with a duty to listen to and provide a voice for the people in future
26 Arctic policy; and

27 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission has done considerable work
28 toward Arctic policy; and

29 **WHEREAS** the extension of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission is a goal of the
30 Senate;

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate that a Senate Special Committee on the Arctic is

1 established to examine issues related to the Arctic in the state; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall determine the number
3 of senators to be members of the committee and shall appoint the members and designate a
4 member to chair the committee; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate Special Committee on the Arctic may meet
6 during and between sessions of the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature and is terminated
7 on the convening of the First Regular Session of the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature.