

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2018

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**
34



Proclaiming 2019 to be the Year of Innovation in Alaska.

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

WHEREAS growing Alaska's economy is imperative to improving the lives of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS ingenuity and innovation support a dynamic economy and can help diversify Alaska's economic base; and

WHEREAS innovation is a new product or process that creates value and drives growth; while innovation is not limited to technology, innovative technology has transformed industries like health care, transportation, and education; and

WHEREAS entrepreneurship is key to commercializing innovations; researchers have found a link between technological innovation and economic development; and cutting-edge technology lies at the heart of economic leadership; and

WHEREAS entrepreneurs entering the state's market spur economic growth, and diversifying Alaska's economy through innovation can help address Alaska's fiscal challenges; and

WHEREAS Alaskans are innovators by necessity, with Native peoples, pioneers,

explorers, miners, fishermen, builders, soldiers, scientists, loggers, engineers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, oil field workers, entrepreneurs, students, artists, and all hard-working Alaskans responding to the state's geography and climate with forward-thinking solutions; and

WHEREAS the National Bureau of Economic Research reports that nearly all new job creation annually comes from startups; without new businesses, job creation in the United States would have been negative over the last 30 years, with firms in their first year responsible for creating an average of 3,000,000 jobs a year; and

WHEREAS data-driven innovation is a key pillar of 21st century growth, through significantly enhanced productivity, economic competitiveness, and social well-being; and

WHEREAS innovation must be culturally and publicly encouraged, and Alaska should pursue policies that foster creativity and new ideas that create an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive and thereby improve and strengthen the economy of the state; and

WHEREAS best practices for innovation incorporate principles that speed up economic development and reduce the risks of traditional business planning approaches; and

WHEREAS a Year of Innovation "pipeline" has been established through collaboration between regional and statewide economic development organizations, universities, investors, business support professionals, and entrepreneurs across the state, through the use of collaborative work spaces, and through aligning events, such as the Arctic Innovation Competition, the Innovation Summit, Alaska Startup Week, and the Launch: Alaska accelerator program; and

WHEREAS collaborative efforts, such as Innovate Alaska 2.0, can diversify the state's economic base by creating an entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem, by empowering import and export businesses, and by engaging the next generation of Alaska entrepreneurs, ensuring that Alaskans' great ideas have a clear pathway to market success; and

WHEREAS university research contributes to the development of intellectual property, interdisciplinary entrepreneurial programming and education, and effective technology transfer and is a vital component of an effective innovation ecosystem; and

WHEREAS a strong innovation ecosystem depends on the sponsorship and promotion of innovations by existing companies as well as the development of new industries by new strategic ventures; and

WHEREAS the Juneau Economic Development Council hosts an annual innovation summit that brings together innovators in the state who move Alaska forward by maintaining, expanding, and creating jobs and economic opportunities; in addition, the innovation summit provides a platform for inductees to the Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame to share exemplary efforts to grow a culture of innovation in the state; and

WHEREAS 20 percent of innovations come from collaborations between multiple institutions, half of which are public-private partnerships between private companies and universities or government research labs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims 2019 as the Year of Innovation in Alaska.