

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/6/10
Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to a Joint Legislative Higher Education Scholarship Funding Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** there is a growing problem of students entering degree programs at
4 postsecondary institutions in Alaska but not completing the degree programs; and

5 **WHEREAS**, at 22.4 percent, Alaska ranks last in the nation for first-time full-time
6 bachelor degree-seeking students who complete their degrees within six years; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is estimated that, by 2025, 50 percent of all jobs in the United States
8 will require a college-level degree; and

9 **WHEREAS** having an educated population is integral to economic development and
10 promotion of lifetime success; and

11 **WHEREAS** the cost of attending postsecondary institutions continues to rise while
12 financial aid for students fails to alleviate their unmet financial need so that they may attend
13 college; and

14 **WHEREAS** improving financial aid opportunities for Alaska students would likely
15 improve postsecondary graduation rates in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** establishing a state scholarship program to improve access to student

1 financial aid requires a more thorough examination by the legislature;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Joint Legislative Higher
3 Education Scholarship Funding Task Force is established for the purpose of examining higher
4 education costs and identifying the best approach in providing financial aid to assist students
5 in the state; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

7 (1) evaluating proposals that are based on available facts and conclusions
8 pertaining to financial aid opportunities at postsecondary institutions in the state;

9 (2) recommending improvements or additions to the laws providing for
10 financial aid at postsecondary institutions; and

11 (3) taking public comments on financial aid opportunities in the state; and be
12 it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force consists of 11 members as follows:

14 (1) five members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

15 (2) five members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of
16 the house of representatives; and

17 (3) one member appointed by the governor; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
19 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the task force; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall meet during the interim between
21 legislative sessions; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
23 proposed legislative changes to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2010, and
24 may make any additional reports it considers advisable; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Legislative Higher Education Scholarship
26 Task Force is terminated on January 1, 2011.