

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2012

Source
SCR 24

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
45



Establishing the Alaska Legislative Celebration Commission to organize events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch of government in Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the United States of America acquired the Alaska territory from Russia by the Treaty of Cession of March 30, 1867, for \$7,200,000; and

WHEREAS local government was not officially instituted in the Alaska territory until 1884, when the United States Congress passed the Organic Act, "An act providing for a civil government for Alaska"; and

WHEREAS the Organic Act redesignated Alaska as an incorporated but unorganized territory renamed the District of Alaska and provided for a governor, a district court of general jurisdiction, a district judge, and court officials, all appointed by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, from 1884 to 1912, several efforts that were made to petition the United States Congress for the institution of more representative government in the District of Alaska

and, specifically, for an elected legislative body, failed or were largely ignored; and

WHEREAS, following substantial grassroots efforts and the promotional work of James Wickersham, the United States Congress approved the Second Organic Act on August 24, 1912, making Alaska a territory of the United States and providing for an elected legislative body vested with very limited powers; and

WHEREAS, following local elections in November 1912, the first legislative body of the Territory of Alaska, consisting of eight senators and 16 representatives, was convened on March 3, 1913, in Juneau, Alaska; and

WHEREAS March 3, 2013, will mark the 100th anniversary of the first convening of Alaska's legislative branch of government; and

WHEREAS it is fitting that the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first convening of Alaska's legislative branch be commensurate with Alaska's magnificent heritage and celebrate the opportunities that 100 years of representative government have brought to the state and its people; and

WHEREAS the organization of a statewide celebration to commemorate the occasion properly will require advance research, planning, and other preparation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Alaska Legislative Celebration Commission, which may meet during the interim between legislative sessions, to research, plan, and prepare for the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch of government in Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall consist of two members from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, two members from the senate appointed by the president of the senate, and three public members appointed jointly by the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a member of the commission resigns or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of a member of the commission or if a legislative member of the commission is no longer a member of the legislative body from which the member was appointed, the officer responsible for appointing the member shall appoint a replacement member as soon as is practicable; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the members of the commission

constitutes a quorum; the commission may approve measures, make recommendations, and take other action based on a vote of a majority of the quorum that is present; the members shall elect from among the membership a chair and other officers as may be required to fulfill the duties of the commission; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the commission serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions in statute; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of the legislative members of the commission and staff of the Legislative Affairs Agency shall serve as staff for the commission; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall plan and administer activities leading up to and relating to the official commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch of government in Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may engage in joint projects with municipalities, civic organizations, and other entities to help identify ways to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch, and that the commission shall be dissolved not later than March 3, 2014.