

Introduced by: Fischer
Date: Jan. 20, 1981
Vote:
Action: Withdrawn 1-20

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 81-20

URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT STATE FUNDING OF THE KENAI PENINSULA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SEPARATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SYSTEM AND THE CREATION OF A LOCAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

WHEREAS, Kenai Peninsula Community College has been a vital educational and cultural presence within the Borough since its founding and enjoys the strong support of the citizens of the Borough and this Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the college, as an element of the University of Alaska system, provides degree and adult education programs in many practical and academic disciplines in the Kenai-Soldotna, Nikiski, Homer and Seward areas; and

WHEREAS, the Community College has increased its enrollment by several hundred percent during the past three years and is now the third largest two year college in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Community College is hampered in its growth and service to the Kenai Peninsula by inadequate funding allocations made by the University of Alaska, and this funding has failed to keep pace with inflation, due to the open hostility of the Board of Regents to further expansion of the Community College; and

WHEREAS, the continued shortage of equipment, facilities, and teaching faculty have placed severe restrictions upon the practical and academic courses which the community college can offer in various portions of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Community College is already separately accredited as a two year community college of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly finds that the University of Alaska Board of Regents does not have, and has not had, a member appointed from the Borough, that the Board of Regents

has not been sensitive to the needs and desires of the Kenai Peninsula area, and that creation of an elected local Board of Governors for the community college would better serve the Borough; and

WHEREAS, other community colleges within the University of Alaska system face difficulties similar to those encountered by the Kenai Peninsula Community College and the Assembly finds that it may be appropriate to place the Kenai Peninsula Community College in an experimental status for a period of seven years to ascertain whether direct funding of community colleges and local control would be desirable for the several community colleges throughout the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

Section 1. That the Assembly urges the Legislature to provide for the direct State funding of all programs, equipment purchases, and capital improvements at the Kenai Peninsula Community College through the use of an equitable formula for the allocation of funds to the various elements of the University of Alaska, and the creation of an elected board of governors to oversee the operations of the Kenai Peninsula Community College, as an independently funded element of the University of Alaska system.

Section 2. The Assembly urges the legislature to provide the direct State funding of the Kenai Peninsula Community College and the creation of a local elected Board of Governors as pilot program for a period of seven years to ascertain whether such arrangements would be appropriate for the Kenai Peninsula Community College and other community colleges throughout the rural areas of the State, and the Assembly urges that the Community College be renamed the Kenai Peninsula State College.

Section 3. That the Clerk shall serve copies of this resolution upon The Honorable Jay S. Hammond, Governor of the State of Alaska, upon The Honorable Jay Kerttula, President of the Senate, upon The Honorable Speaker of the State House, upon The Honorable Donald E. Gilman, State Senator, and upon The Honorables Bette Cato, Hugh Malone, and Pat O'Connell, State Representatives.

Section 4. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 1981

ATTEST:

Paul Fischer, Assembly President

Borough Clerk

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