

HOUSE BILL NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER

Introduced: 1/7/19

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the display of the national and state mottos."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 PURPOSE. The purposes of this Act are to

6 (1) reaffirm that "In God we trust" is the official motto of the United States
7 and "North to the Future" is the official motto of the state; and

8 (2) support and encourage awareness and public display of the mottos of the
9 nation and the state in public buildings, public schools, and other locations to honor the
10 heritage of the nation and the state.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.130 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

12 (c) To the extent donations are available under (d) of this section for the
13 design, creation, or purchase of a display, a school board shall arrange to have each
14 library and classroom of a school district prominently display the national motto, "In
15 God we trust," established under 36 U.S.C. 302, and the state motto, "North to the

Future," established under AS 44.09.045. The displays required by this subsection must contain an accurate representation of the United States flag next to the national motto and an accurate representation of the Alaska flag next to the state motto. The requirements of this subsection are in addition to the requirements of (a) of this section.

(d) A school board may use only money donated to the school district to pay for the design, creation, or purchase of a display.

(e) If a person brings an action in court to challenge the constitutionality of a display of the national motto under (c) of this section, the Department of Law shall defend the constitutionality of the display and, if the legislature appropriates money for the purpose, the state shall hold the school district harmless from monetary damages awarded by the court against the school district for the display.

(f) In this section,

(1) "display" means a display described in (c) of this section;

(2) "school district" means a borough or city school district or a regional educational attendance area.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 35.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 35.05.070. Display of national and state mottos. (a) To the extent donations are available under (b) of this section for the design, creation, or purchase of a display, a state agency shall prominently display in each public building and each space leased by a state agency in a building that is not a public building the national motto, "In God we trust," established under 36 U.S.C. 302, and the state motto, "North to the Future," established under AS 44.09.045. The displays required by this subsection must contain an accurate representation of the United States flag next to the national motto and an accurate representation of the Alaska flag next to the state motto.

(b) To pay for the design, creation, or purchase of a display, a state agency may use only donations that are made to the state and, if the donations are monetary donations, are appropriated by the legislature to the state agency for that purpose.

(c) If a person brings an action in court to challenge the constitutionality of a display of the national motto under (a) of this section, the Department of Law shall

1 defend the state agency against the action.

2 (d) In this section,

3 (1) "display" means a display described in (a) of this section;

4 (2) "state agency" means

5 (A) a department, institution, board, commission, division,
6 authority, public corporation, or other administrative unit of the executive
7 branch;

8 (B) the Alaska Railroad Corporation;

9 (C) a committee, division, or administrative unit of the
10 legislative branch;

11 (D) the University of Alaska.

12 * **Sec. 4.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13 (80) donations for a display described in AS 35.05.070(a).