



# Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

**Sponsor:** Senator Ralph Seekins  
**Current Version:** SJR 27  
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## Fact Sheet for: Senate Joint Resolution 27

**Short Title:** Submerged Lands Title Disputes

### Summary:

- Encourages the Secretary of the Interior and the Alaska congressional delegation to support and endorse the continuation of the process for recording federal disclaimers of interest for quieting title to submerged lands;
- Requests the Alaska congressional delegation to introduce legislation in the Congress to provide for federal participation in the proposed state and federal Navigable Waters Commission for Alaska; and
- Requests the introduction of legislation in the Congress to amend the Quiet Title Act to ensure federal cooperation in resolving submerged land title disputes.

### Benefits:

- Reminds the federal government of its responsibility under the “equal footing” doctrine.
- Promotes a mechanism to assist in the settling of submerged land title disputes within Alaska.
- Provides a road map allowing the state of Alaska to rightfully possess the management authority over the submerged lands promised us at statehood.

### Background:

Senate Bill 295, Senate Bill 305 and Senate Joint Resolution 27 are part of the Senate Majority’s “Standing up for Alaska’s land rights” package. The navigable waters issue dates back to statehood, when Alaska received title under the “equal footing” doctrine to all submerged lands under navigable water and marine waters out to three miles, with the exception of land withdrawn at statehood. The Federal government, however, has been slow to concede any navigability determinations, and fewer than 20 rivers have been determined navigable by the federal courts. The ownership of more than 60 million acres is at stake.