

# Calendar No. 744

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SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 749

## DOCK OR WHARF AT JUNEAU, ALASKA

MAY 3 (calendar day, MAY 4), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WILLIS, from the Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 139]

The Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions, to whom was referred House Joint Resolution 139, report the same back without amendment and recommend its passage. The reasons for this legislation are clearly set forth in the following statement from the report made in the House of Representatives.

This resolution proposes the authorization of the construction of a dock or wharf at Juneau, Alaska, by the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska. The wharf is for the joint use of all Government services operating vessels in Alaskan waters. At the present time these Government craft, of which there are a great and increasing number, and comprising craft ranging from motor boats to ocean-going steamers, utilize commercial wharves. The docking facilities of the harbor are taxed to the utmost, and Government craft must move when space is required by commercial boats. The condition sometimes endangers vessels and furnishes little or no facilities for fueling or loading.

The city of Juneau, the capital of the Territory of Alaska, has agreed to contribute to the project necessary easements covering approach, to put the approach in good condition, and to deed the same to the Government.

The cost of an alternative approach would be greater than the total cost to the Government of the proposed wharf.

The wharf is to have a 400-foot face and a width of 40 feet, with face in 25-foot depth of water. The limit of cost to the Federal Government is fixed at \$22,500.

The letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, likewise the letter from the Secretary of War, and the report by the Chief of Engineers are hereby embodied as a part of this report.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, April 28, 1926.

HON. FRANK B. WILLIS,  
*Chairman Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am in receipt of your letter of April 23, 1926, inclosing a copy of House Joint Resolution 139, authorizing the construction of

## DOCK OR WHARF AT JUNEAU, ALASKA

a Government dock or wharf at Juneau, Alaska, with a copy of the report thereon of the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives. You state that you desire the opinion of this department as to the advisability of the proposed legislation.

I have to state, in reply, that so far as the interests of this department are concerned the enactment of the proposed legislation into law will be of advantage to the Coast Guard.

Yours very truly,

A. W. MELLON,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, January 20, 1925.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am transmitting herewith a letter of the Chief of Engineers dated January 7, 1925, inclosing a report by the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska on a survey, including plans and estimates of cost, for the construction of a Government dock or wharf at Juneau, Alaska, for the joint use of the various Government services operating vessels in Alaskan waters.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
Washington, January 7, 1925.

Subject: Report on survey and estimates for a Government dock at Juneau, Alaska.

To: The Secretary of War.

1. There is submitted herewith for transmission to Congress, as authorized by the War Department appropriation act, approved March 2, 1923, a report by the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska on a survey, including plans and estimates of cost, for the construction of a Government dock at Juneau, Alaska, for the joint use of the various Government services operating vessels in Alaskan waters.

2. The plan proposed will apparently provide sufficient wharf space for all immediate and reasonably prospective needs of the Government in this harbor. While the use by the Government of a portion of an existing private wharf, jointly with the owner thereof, as an approach to the proposed Government wharf is not an ideal arrangement, it has been explained by the board that to construct a separate approach will more than double the cost of the wharf, and that the use of the private wharf by its owner will not be so extensive as to embarrass the United States for many years, if ever. A plan showing within green lines the portion of the private wharf which is to be deeded to the Government has been added to the report.

3. The project outlined in the accompanying report will, it is believed, provide the necessary wharfing space for Government vessels with the minimum expenditure of Federal funds, and I accordingly recommend the adoption of the project as recommended by the president of the Alaska Road Commission. It is recommended that the name "wharf" be used for the structure, instead of "dock," as being more in conformity with usual nomenclature.

H. TAYLOR,  
*Major General, Chief of Engineers.*

REPORT ON SURVEY AND ESTIMATES FOR A GOVERNMENT DOCK AT JUNEAU,  
ALASKA

SYLLABUS

The Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska submits plans and estimates for the construction of a Government dock at Juneau, Alaska, for the joint use of the various Government services operating vessels in Alaskan waters, at a total cost to the United States of \$22,500 for construction.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS FOR ALASKA,  
*Juneau, Alaska, July 10, 1924.*

Subject: Survey, plans, and estimates for a Government dock at Juneau, Alaska.

To: The Secretary of War

(Through the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Washington, D. C.).

1. The appropriation act for the support of the War Department for the fiscal year 1924, approved March 2, 1923, contains the following language following the item for the support of the activities of the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska:

"For cost of survey and preparation of plans and estimates for a Government dock at Juneau, Alaska, \$600."

The Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska was accordingly charged with the duty of preparing this report, by first indorsement, office of the Chief of Engineers, dated March 17, 1923.

2. No work of improvement has been done by the United States at Juneau Harbor, Alaska, nor are there any landing facilities owned by the United States. Juneau, being the capital of the Territory of Alaska, is the headquarters for the Territorial activities of a great many Federal bureaus, a number of which operate floating craft in Alaskan waters. These craft generally utilize commercial wharves, in some cases without charge and in others by payment of rental. In any case, the Government craft must move when space is required by commercial boats, Juneau commerce is growing, which will make it increasingly difficult for Government boats to find suitable space at commercial wharves.

3. Juneau Harbor is located at the northern end of Gastineau Channel. The harbor is landlocked and, under nearly all conditions of weather, provides safe docking for vessels. The docks in the locality are all timber-pile structures, treated Douglas-fir piles being used on account of the Teredo prevalent in these waters, and very little damage is suffered by such types of construction from prevailing natural conditions. The harbor is open the year round; practically no ice forms in the harbor. The range of tide is 18 feet.

4. A questionnaire was sent to all Federal bureaus or services operating floating craft in Alaskan waters, or that might make use of docking facilities at Juneau, to determine the extent of such operations, the cost thereof, and the saving, if any, should a Government dock be provided.

It is believed that the legislation recommended will be beneficial to the public service, and in the long run in the interest of sound economy.

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