

HOUSE BILL NO. 76

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, BUCH, CISSNA, DOOGAN, GARDNER, GUTTENBERG,
HOLMES, KAWASAKI, KERTTULA, PETERSEN, SALMON, AND TUCK, Crawford

Introduced: 1/20/09

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Legislative Council and the
2 membership of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 24.20.020 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 24.20.020. Membership.** The legislative council is composed of the
6 president of the senate and six other senators appointed by the president, and the
7 speaker of the house of representatives and six other representatives appointed by the
8 speaker. The membership from each house shall meet the requirements of (b) of this
9 section [INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OF THE TWO
10 MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES]. The appointing authority in each house shall make
11 and announce the appointment or reappointment of members of the council within 15
12 days after the convening of the first regular session of each legislature.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 24.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (b) The membership from each house must include at least one member from

each of the two major political parties. The membership from each house must also include the number of minority members that is proportional to the number of minority members in the house compared to the total house membership or to one seat, whichever is greater. In calculating the number of seats to which the minority is entitled, fractional numbers that represent the minority proportional entitlement to a seat shall be ignored. For purposes of this subsection, "minority" means a group of members who have organized and elected a minority leader and who constitute at least 25 percent of the total house membership.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 24.20.040 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.20.040. Vacancies. When a vacancy occurs in the statutory or appointive membership of the council, the presiding officer of the house incurring the vacancy shall fill the vacancy within 30 days. If the office of the president of the senate or speaker of the house of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy occurs among the appointed members of the council, the remaining council members from the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new member. After a vacancy is filled, the membership of the house that incurred the vacancy must meet the requirements of AS 24.20.020(b) [A LEGISLATOR APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE MEMBER VACATING THE SEAT, WHEN POSSIBLE].

* **Sec. 4.** AS 24.20.161 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.20.161. Membership. The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee is composed of 10 members: the chairs [CHAIRMEN] of the senate and house finance committees; one member selected from each of the senate and house finance committees and appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house, respectively; and three members appointed from each house by the respective presiding officer. The chair [CHAIRMAN] of the finance committee may choose not to serve on the committee. If this occurs, the presiding officer of the appropriate house shall appoint a replacement from the finance committee. The membership from each house shall meet the requirements of (b) of this section [INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OF THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES]. The committee shall select its own chair [CHAIRMAN].

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 24.20.161 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (b) The membership from each house must include at least one member from
3 each of the two major political parties. The membership from each house must also
4 include the number of minority members that is proportional to the number of
5 minority members in the house compared to the total house membership or to one seat,
6 whichever is greater. In calculating the number of seats to which the minority is
7 entitled, fractional numbers that represent the minority proportional entitlement to a
8 seat shall be ignored. For purposes of this subsection, "minority" means a group of
9 members who have organized and elected a minority leader and who constitute at least
10 25 percent of the total house membership.

11 * **Sec. 6.** AS 24.20.181 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 24.20.181. Vacancies.** When a vacancy occurs in the statutory or
13 appointive membership of the committee, the presiding officer of the house incurring
14 the vacancy shall choose a successor. If the office of the president of the senate or
15 speaker of the house of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy from the
16 affected house occurs among the membership of the committee, the remaining
17 committee members from the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new
18 member. **After a vacancy is filled, the membership of the house that incurred the**
19 **vacancy must meet the requirements of AS 24.20.161(b).**