

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

JUNE 4, 2008



REPORT NUMBER 08.269

HISTORY OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IN ALASKA

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE ANNA FAIRCLOUGH

BY TIM SPENGLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked for information on the history of daylight savings time.¹ Specifically, you requested a review of legislative history regarding attempts to eliminate daylight savings time in Alaska. Additionally, you asked if there is federal money attached to staying on daylight savings time.

Daylight Saving Time (DST) was first proposed in a whimsical essay in 1784 by Ben Franklin, as a suggestion for saving candles and lamp oil on summer evenings. It was first advocated seriously in 1907 by British builder William Willett, in the pamphlet *Waste of Daylight*. Daylight Savings Time was used during both World Wars to conserve energy for the war effort. In the United States, from the end of World War II until 1966, there was no uniform national plan. Instead, states and localities determined their own DST systems. In 1966, President Johnson signed the Uniform Time Act, establishing a consistent schedule for the country.²

The Uniform Time Act (UTA) decrees that all states go on DST on the second Sunday in March and off on the first Sunday in November.³ The UTA provides that all states will be on DST unless their legislatures specifically reject it. Currently Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo reservation, which employs DST consistent with the Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico segments of the reservation) and Hawaii are the only states on standard time year round.⁴

¹ Daylight savings is a system of setting clocks ahead so that both sunrise and sunset occur at a later hour, producing an additional hour of daylight in the evening. In the North Temperate Zone, clocks are usually set ahead one hour in the spring and set back to standard time in the fall.

² We found historical background information on DST on numerous sites including *National Geographic News*, *The History of Daylight Savings*, March 31, 2006 and on the *Wikipedia* and *MSN Encarta* web sites.

³ From 1987-2006 DST commenced on the first Sunday in April and concluded on the last Sunday in October. The latest amendment to the Uniform Time Act—part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005—extended DST by four weeks in the belief that it would help conserve energy. The extended DST became effective in 2007.

⁴ Arizona has not observed DST since 1968. This is largely an energy conservation measure since the temperature in the state is extremely hot during the summer, resulting in more power usage from air conditioning units in homes and businesses. Hawaii, because of its tropical climate, would not likely benefit from daylight savings time.

Attachment A

HB 4 (1999), 21st Alaska Legislature
HB 4 (1999), Bill History/Action

HB 409 (2002), 22nd Alaska Legislature
HB 409 (2002), Bill History/Action

SB 120 (2005), 24th Alaska Legislature
SB 120 (2005), Bill History/Action

CS HB 176(STA) (2005), 24th Alaska Legislature
HB 176 (2005), Bill History/Action

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KOHRING, Davis

Introduced: 1/19/99

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act rejecting the use of daylight saving time."

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 01 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 **Chapter 15. Standard Time.**

5 **Sec. 01.15.010. Exemption from daylight saving time.** This state exempts
6 itself from observation of advanced time, also known as daylight saving time, between
7 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday in April and 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday in October in
8 each calendar year.

Bill History/Action for 21st Legislature

BILL: HB 4

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (H)L&C
THEN RLS

STATUS DATE: 03/05/99

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) KOHRING, Davis

TITLE: "An Act rejecting the use of daylight saving time."

Bill Number: [Display Bill](#) [Next Bill](#)

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[Display Committee Action with Bill History](#)

Jm-Date	Jm-Page	Action
01/19/99	0018	(H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/99
01/19/99	0018	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
01/19/99	0019	(H) WTR, L&C
02/24/99	0307	(H) COSPONSOR(S): DAVIS
03/05/99	0364	(H) WTR RPT 1DP 2DNP 4NR
03/05/99	0364	(H) DP: BARNES: DNP: BERKOWITZ, COWDERY:
03/05/99	0364	(H) NR: MASEK, PHILLIPS, GREEN, JOULE
03/05/99	0364	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (GOV/ALL DEPTS)
03/05/99	0364	(H) REFERRED TO LABOR & COMMERCE

[Similar Subject Match](#) or [Exact Subject Match](#)

[TIME ZONES](#)

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HOUSE BILL NO. 409

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANCASTER BY REQUEST, Dyson, Kohring, Croft, Foster

Introduced: 2/13/02

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act rejecting the use of daylight saving time."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 01 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 **Chapter 15. Standard Time.**

5 **Sec. 01.15.010. Exemption from daylight saving time.** This state exempts
6 itself from observation of advanced time, also known as daylight saving time, between
7 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday in April and 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday in October in
8 each calendar year.

Bill History/Action for 22 Legislature

BILL: HB 409

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (H) RLS

STATUS DATE: 04/09/02

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) LANCASTER BY REQUEST , Dyson, Kohring, Croft, Foster

TITLE: "An Act rejecting the use of daylight saving time."

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Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
02/13/02	2233	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/13/02	2233	(H) L&C
03/06/02	2496	(H) COSPONSOR(S): KOHRING
03/15/02	2563	(H) COSPONSOR(S): CROFT
03/25/02	2674	(H) COSPONSOR(S): WILSON
03/27/02	Text	(H) L&C AT 3:15 PM CAPITOL 17
03/27/02	Text	(H) -- Meeting Canceled --
04/03/02	2788	(H) COSPONSOR REMOVED: WILSON
04/04/02	2806	(H) COSPONSOR(S): FOSTER
04/08/02	Text	(H) L&C AT 3:15 PM CAPITOL 17
04/08/02	Text	(H) Moved Out of Committee
04/08/02	Text	(H) MINUTE(L&C)
04/09/02	2847	(H) L&C RPT 3DP 2NR
04/09/02	2847	(H) DP: MEYER, CRAWFORD, MURKOWSKI
04/09/02	2847	(H) NR: KOTT, HALCRO
04/09/02	2847	(H) FN1: ZERO(H,L&C)
04/09/02	2847	(H) REFERRED TO RULES

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SENATE BILL NO. 120

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS OLSON, Wagoner, Dyson, Stedman

Introduced: 2/28/05

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act exempting the state and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Article 5. Standard Time.**

5 **Sec. 44.12.400. Exemption from daylight saving time.** Under 15 U.S.C.
6 260a, this state exempts itself and all of its political subdivisions from observation of
7 advanced time, also known as daylight saving time, between 2:00 a.m. on the first
8 Sunday in April and 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday in October in each calendar year,
9 and the entire state and all of its political subdivisions shall observe the standard time
10 that is otherwise applicable during that time period.

Bill History/Action for 24 Legislature

BILL: SB 120

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (S) L&C

STATUS DATE: 04/14/05

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(S) OLSON, Wagoner, Dyson, Stedman

TITLE: "An Act exempting the state and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time."

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02/28/05	0414	(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/28/05	0414	(S) CRA, L&C
03/02/05	0447	(S) COSPONSOR(S); WAGONER, DYSON, STEDMAN
04/13/05	Text	(S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 211
04/13/05	Text	(S) Moved SB 120 Out of Committee
04/13/05	Text	(S) MINUTE(CRA)
04/14/05	0959	(S) CRA RPT 3NR 1DP
04/14/05	0959	(S) NR: STEVENS G. WAGONER, STEDMAN
04/14/05	0959	(S) DP: ELLIS
04/14/05	0959	(S) FNI: ZERO(ADM)
04/14/05	0959	(S) REFERRED TO LABOR & COMMERCE

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match

TIME ZONES

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 176(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/5/05

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SALMON, Kohring, Croft, Gruenberg

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act authorizing an advisory vote on whether the legislature should exempt the state**
2 **and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time."**

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

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

6 **ADVISORY VOTE.** At the next general election, in compliance with the election
7 laws of the state, the lieutenant governor shall place before the qualified voters of the state a
8 question advisory to the legislature. Notwithstanding AS 15.60.005 relating to preparation of
9 the ballot proposition, the question shall appear on the ballot in the following form:

10 **Q U E S T I O N**

11 Shall the legislature exempt the state and all of its political subdivisions
12 from daylight saving time, between 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday in April and
13 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday in October in each calendar year, so that the state
14 and all of its political subdivisions observe the standard time that would

1 otherwise apply during that time period?

2 Yes [] No []

Bill History/Action for 24 Legislature

BILL: HB 176

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (H) FIN

STATUS DATE: 05/05/05

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) SALMON, Kohring, Croft, Gruenberg

TITLE: "An Act exempting the state and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time."

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02/25/05	0428	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/25/05	0428	(H) CRA. STA
04/07/05	Text	(H) CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124
04/07/05	Text	(H) Moved Out of Committee
04/07/05	Text	(H) MINUTE(CRA)
04/08/05	0931	(H) CRA RPT 1DP 1DNP 3NR
04/08/05	0931	(H) DP: SALMON;
04/08/05	0931	(H) DNP: OLSON;
04/08/05	0931	(H) NR: CISSNA, KOTT, LEDOUX
04/08/05	0931	(H) FN1: ZERO(ADM)
04/23/05	Text	(H) STA AT 9:30 AM CAPITOL 106
04/23/05	Text	(H) Heard & Held
04/23/05	Text	(H) MINUTE(STA)
05/05/05	1577	(H) STA RPT CS(STA) NT 1DP 3NR 1AM
05/05/05	1577	(H) DP: SEATON;
05/05/05	1577	(H) NR: LYNN, GATTO, ELKINS;
05/05/05	1577	(H) AM: GRUENBERG
05/05/05	1577	(H) FN1: ZERO(ADM)
05/05/05	1577	(H) FN2: (GOV)
05/05/05	1631	(H) FIN REFERRAL ADDED AFTER STA
05/05/05	1631	(H) REFERRED TO FINANCE
05/05/05	Text	(H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
05/05/05	Text	(H) Moved CSHB 176(STA) Out of Committee
05/05/05	Text	(H) MINUTE(STA)
03/16/06	Text	(H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
03/16/06	Text	(H) Scheduled But Not Heard
03/16/06	Text	(H) MINUTE(FIN)

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