

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION:
State Capitol, Rm. 418
Juneau, AK 99801

INTERIM:
1500 W. Benson Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503



House Energy Committee,
Co-Chair

Community and Regional
Affairs Committee

State Affairs Committee

Joined Armed Services
Committee

REPRESENTATIVE KY HOLLAND

House Bill 290 **Version A Sponsor Statement** (34-LS1308A)

House Bill 290 and House Concurrent Resolution 10 are companion measures intended to simplify and accelerate the administrative process for the distribution of joint resolutions. Currently, Uniform Rules require joint resolutions to be signed by the Governor, then sent to their designated recipients by the Lieutenant Governor. Distribution of all other resolutions is the responsibility of the Legislative Affairs Agency. Unlike bills, which the Constitution requires the Governor to sign within fifteen days of receipt, no timelines govern the resolution process.

This fragmented process has led to delays and inefficiencies. The requirement that a joint resolution be routed through the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Affairs Agency, Chief Clerk, and (or) Senate Secretary has resulted in resolutions being sent out to recipients months after passage, sometimes without the knowledge of the sponsoring legislators.

These delays are especially problematic because joint resolutions are often the Legislature's primary means of expressing its collective position on matters outside its direct legal authority but of significant importance to the state. When a majority of legislators seek to communicate with Congress, federal agencies, or other key decision-makers, that communication is most effective when it is timely and clearly attributable to the Legislature.

HB 290 and HCR 10 work in tandem to prevent such delays. HB 290 requires the Governor to sign and return (or return unsigned) a joint resolution within fifteen days of transmittal, or twenty days if the Legislature is not in session. HCR 10 reassigns responsibility for distribution of all resolutions to the Chief Clerk or Senate Secretary and requires that a resolution's sponsor be notified when their resolution is distributed.

By reducing the number of entities involved in distributing resolutions, these measures help relieve the workload of offices that already carry numerous essential responsibilities. And by ensuring that resolutions are distributed promptly and reliably, they protect the Legislature's voice as expresses its positions on issues of importance to the state.