

# KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

## RESOLUTION NO. 3161

### **A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Urging Alaska Legislature Passage of SB26 to Petition the United States Department of Transportation to Change the State of Alaska to Pacific Time Zone and to Exempt the State From Daylight Savings Time**

#### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 26 was introduced in the Alaska Legislature on January 22, 2025 to petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to change time zones in Alaska to the Pacific time zone, and to exempt the State of Alaska from Daylight Savings Time; and
- B. WHEREAS**, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 261(a), the U.S. Secretary of Transportation sets time zones and time zone boundaries, and nearly all of the State of Alaska is now in the Alaska time zone; and
- C. WHEREAS**, the time zones are to be determined by the Secretary with regard for the convenience of commerce and the existing junction points and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce; and
- D. WHEREAS**, changes in time zones may be effectuated by Congressional enactment or by the State petitioning the Secretary of Transportation to alter a time zone via regulatory action; and
- E. WHEREAS**, Daylight Savings Time (DST) was enacted as a legal requirement of the Uniform Time Act of 1966, and
- F. WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Uniform Time Act, States may exempt themselves from observing DST by enactment of State law; and
- G. WHEREAS**, per the sponsors of SB 26, the desire to petition for change in the Alaska time zone and exemption from DST is prompted by the time shifts and mismatched daylight hours of the current time zone and negative impacts of DST on the daily routines, productivity, and overall quality of life of Alaskans; and
- H. WHEREAS**, Southeast Alaska had historically been in the Pacific time zone due to its close business ties with Seattle and other West coast cities; and
- I. WHEREAS**, in October, 1983, following adoption of a resolution by the Alaska Legislature requesting the time zone change, Southeast Alaska shifted from Pacific time zone to the Yukon time zone (renamed by Congress to "Alaska time zone" in 1984) and the State of Alaska was changed from four time zones to its

current two time zones; and

- J. **WHEREAS**, numerous studies have concluded that DST causes short-term health and safety issues by disrupting the circadian rhythms of citizens leading to sleep loss, fatigue, increased risks for heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and workplace injuries, especially after the "spring forward" shift; and
- K. **WHEREAS**, given the rapidity of air travel, the business difficulties encountered due to Alaska being one hour different from the West coast, and the health implications attendant with use of DST, the requested change in time zone and exemption from DST are appropriate.


**NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH** as follows:

**Section 1.** The Assembly of Ketchikan Gateway Borough urges passage of SB26 by the Alaska Legislature petitioning the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to move Alaska to the Pacific time zone and exempting the State of Alaska from Daylight Savings Time (DST).

**Section 2.** Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Honorable Jeremy Bynum, the Honorable Bert Stedman, and Governor Michael Dunleavy.

**Section 3.** Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 12th day of January, 2026.

  
Austin Otos, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Glenn Brown, Borough Attorney