

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Judiciary Committee



SEN. MATT CLAMAN

Chairman

State Capitol, Room 429

Juneau, AK 99801

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Senator Jesse Kiehl, Vice Chair

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Senator James Kaufman

Senator Löki Tobin

Senate Concurrent Resolution 13

Sponsor Statement – Version B

“Relating to the procedure that the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature will use to reconsider bills and items vetoed by the governor.”

According to article II, section 16 of the Alaska Constitution, "Upon receipt of a veto message during a regular session of the legislature, the legislature shall meet immediately in joint session and reconsider passage of the vetoed bill or item." The Alaska Constitution does not mention a vote about whether to meet in a joint session; the Constitution states the legislature "*shall meet immediately*."

Senate Concurrent Resolution 13 clarifies the importance of following the "*shall meet immediately*" language in the Alaska Constitution. The legislature has taken different approaches in the past about how to proceed following a governor's veto. To override a veto, article II, section 16 of the Alaska Constitution requires the House and Senate to meet in a joint session to reconsider the legislation. In the early years of statehood, the legislature met promptly in joint session to reconsider vetoed legislation. In later years, each body would vote separately about whether to meet in a joint session. If either body voted against holding a joint session, they did not hold a joint session and the vote to override did not occur.

Alaskans deserve to have predictability and certainty regarding the process to override a veto. SCR 13 will establish consistency and clarity for all Alaskans and ensure that the legislature carefully considers all vetoes moving forward.