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**CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26( )**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARA, Tuck, Parish**

**A RESOLUTION**

**Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the membership and actions of the Redistricting Board and relating to district boundaries and the establishment of a nonpartisan statewide district map.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**\* Section 1.** Article VI, sec. 6, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 6. District Boundaries.** The Redistricting Board shall establish a statewide district map and individual districts [THE SIZE AND AREA OF HOUSE DISTRICTS], subject to the limitations of this article. The map may not be drawn to unduly favor a political party, and a district may not be drawn to unduly favor a political party or candidate. Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population within two and one-half percent of [AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO] the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State [STATE] by forty. Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts. Consideration may

be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries wherever possible.

\* **Sec. 2.** Article VI, sec. 8(a), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

(a) There shall be a redistricting board. It shall consist of seven [FIVE] members, all of whom shall be residents of the State and registered voters who have voted in each of the previous four state general and primary elections, [FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR] and none of whom may be public employees or officials at the time of or during the tenure of appointment. Except as provided under (f) of this section, the board shall consist of

(1) two members affiliated with the political party with the largest number of affiliated voters registered in the State, selected in a manner prescribed by that party's bylaws;

(2) two members affiliated with the political party with the second largest number of affiliated voters registered in the State, selected in a manner prescribed by that party's bylaws; and

(3) three members who are not registered as affiliated with a political party and who have not been registered as affiliated with a political party within the preceding ten years, selected as provided in (e) of this section [APPOINTMENTS SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION. BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE COMPENSATED].

\* **Sec. 3.** Article VI, sec. 8(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

(b) Members of the Redistricting Board shall be compensated and shall [APPOINTED IN THE YEAR IN WHICH AN OFFICIAL DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES IS TAKEN AND BY SEPTEMBER 1 OF THAT YEAR. THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE SENATE, THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL EACH APPOINT ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD. THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD SHALL BE MADE IN THE ORDER LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION. AT LEAST ONE BOARD MEMBER SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT THAT EXISTED ON JANUARY 1,

1999. BOARD MEMBERS] serve until a final plan for redistricting and proclamation of redistricting has been adopted and all challenges to it brought under Section 11 of this article have been resolved after final remand or affirmation.

\* **Sec. 4.** Article VI, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(d) A member of the Redistricting Board may not have held a compensated or uncompensated position with a political party in the State or been elected to federal or state office.

(e) The four members of the Redistricting Board selected under (a)(1) and (2) of this section shall, by majority vote, not later than October 1 of the year in which a decennial census of the United States is taken, select the three remaining members of the board.

(f) If the four members of the Redistricting Board selected under (a)(1) and (2) of this section have not selected the three remaining members by October 1 or if the four members of the board notify the Alaska supreme court before October 1 that they are unable to agree on the remaining members, then the supreme court shall select three individuals who the supreme court determines are nonpartisan, and not likely to side philosophically with either of the two largest political parties, to join the four members selected under (a)(1) and (2) of this section for a seven-member board. The supreme court shall hold a thirty-day application period and shall make the appointments on or before December 31.

\* **Sec. 5.** Article VI, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 9. Board Actions. Once the board is fully empaneled under Section 8 of this article, it** [THE BOARD] shall elect one of its members **chair** [CHAIRMAN] and may employ temporary assistants. Concurrence of **a majority of the** [THREE] members of the Redistricting Board is required for actions of the Board, but a lesser number may conduct hearings. The board

**(1) shall employ or contract for services of independent legal counsel;**  
**and**

**(2) may solicit or contract for technical expertise or district mapping resources the board considers necessary.**

1 \* **Sec. 6.** Article VI, sec. 10(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

2 (b) Adoption of a final redistricting plan shall require the affirmative votes of

3 **a majority of the** [THREE] members of the Redistricting Board.

4 \* **Sec. 7.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of  
5 the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the  
6 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.