

LEGAL SERVICES

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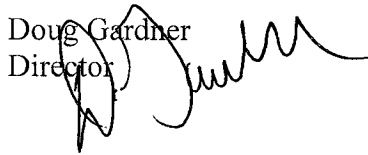
MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary to CSSCR 2(STA)
(Work Order No. 27-LS0031\B)

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
Attn: Tom Obermeyer

FROM: Doug Gardner
Director



You requested a sectional summary of SCR 2, a bill relating to proposed amendments to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to the presiding officer pro tempore. This summary is current as of the date of this memorandum and the "B" version of the resolution.

As a preliminary matter, a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1 of the bill amends Uniform Rule 1(a) by replacing "temporary" with the phrase "pro tempore," making the use of the term "pro tempore" consistent throughout Uniform Rule 1.

Section 2 of the bill amends Uniform Rule 1(b) by replacing "temporary" with the phrase "pro tempore" in two places in Uniform Rule 1(b). Again, replacing "temporary" with "pro tempore" achieves consistency throughout Uniform Rule 1 when describing the "pro tempore" officer. This section also replaces "permanent" with the word "regular" when identifying the regular presiding officer in four places in Uniform Rule 1(b). The term "regular" is used to replace reference to the existing "permanent" officer, and provides consistency in describing the "regular" officer throughout Uniform Rule 1.

Section 3 of the bill amends Uniform Rule 1(c) by replacing the phrase "temporary and permanent," with "the presiding officer pro tempore," and "regular," and also replaces "officers" with "officer." Again, the proposed amending language is used to achieve consistency throughout Uniform Rule 1.

Section 4 amends Uniform Rule 4 by establishing that, in the absence of both the regular presiding officer (Speaker of the House) and the absence of the majority leader, the presiding officer pro tempore previously elected in Uniform Rule 1(b) serves as the presiding officer pro tempore. The presiding officer pro tempore elected at the start of the first session of a legislature, in addition to the presiding officer pro tempore's duties set out in Uniform Rule 1(b), will continue for both sessions to serve as a "backup" in the absence of the regular presiding officer (Speaker of the House) and majority leader. Section 4 of the bill does not displace or in any way alter the duties of the Speaker of the House, or the House Majority Leader. Rather, the bill provides a third leadership position called "presiding officer pro tempore" to identify a member elected to this position as a designated alternate in the event that the speaker and the majority leader are absent.

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