




LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature
Division of Legal and Research Services
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-3991 phone
(907) 465-3908 fax
research@legis.state.ak.us

Memorandum

TO: Representative Paul Seaton
FROM: Chuck Burnham, Legislative Analyst 
DATE: February 1, 2011
RE: Interim Committees of the Alaska Legislature, May 2000 - January 2011 Report
LRS Report 11.144

You asked about interim committees of the Alaska Legislature. Specifically, you wanted an account of the number of committees, task forces, commissions, and similar official bodies of the legislature that met on dates outside of regular or special sessions since 2000.¹

According to the Alaska Legislature's Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS), a total of 606 interim committees and official legislative entities met between May 7, 2000, and January 17, 2011.² Table 1 tallies these committees by year and location. Overall, as you can see, the majority of interim committees—about 72 percent—met in Anchorage. The number of interim committees ranged from a low of 21 in 2000 to a high of 100 in 2009. The average number of committees per interim over the period we reviewed is 55.

Interim Committees of the Alaska Legislature 2000-2010						
Year	Regular Session Days	Special Session Days	Interim Committees by Location			Total Interim Committees
			Anchorage	Juneau	Other	
2000	115	3	13	6	2	21
2001	121	3	43	2	16	61
2002	123	9	34	3	9	46
2003	121	0	32	2	22	56
2004	122	3	42	3	1	46
2005	121	15	34	6	31	71
2006	121	67	26	0	8	34
2007	121	31	43	3	17	63
2008	90	60	38	2	6	46
2009	90	1	77	0	23	100
2010	90	0	54	0	8	62
Total	1,235	192	436	27	143	606

Notes and Source: This table tallies the number of caucuses (other than political caucuses), councils, task forces, and standing and special committees that met on dates outside of regular or special sessions between May 7, 2000, and January 17, 2011, as listed in the Alaska Legislature's Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS). Previous iterations of our reports on this topic counted *meetings* rather than the *committees* and other official organizations involved. Please use caution when comparing these reports. Session lengths are primarily from Legislative Legal Services, *Summary of Alaska Legislation 2009*.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

¹ As you know, this report differs from previous iterations on this topic in that you asked for a count of interim *committees* as opposed to a tally of interim *meetings*. For this report, we tallied two committees for each instance in which the stand-alone committee of one chamber met with its companion from the other body. For instance, if each chamber's Finance Committee met together, we tallied two committees; however, joint committees—Legislative Budget and Audit, Legislative Council, etc.—tallied only one for each meeting because these organizations are strictly joint committees. That is, they do not exist as stand-alone committees in either chamber. As a result of these factors, we urge caution when comparing our reports on this topic.

² Among the wide variety of information contained in BASIS are the hearing calendars for legislative entities for every year since 1993. The system is available online at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/>. May 7, 2000, marked the end of the third special session of the 21st Alaska Legislature, which immediately followed the second regular session.