

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for;
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law
Alaska Court System

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Legislative Council
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Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 18

"Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the office of attorney general."

The State of Alaska has grown from being a frontier state in 1959 to being a major player in the world's oil and gas industry today. With economic growth, has come vast growth in population.

As the state looks to the future, and the challenges of emerging as a strong independent state, it is time to examine how the state selects its Attorney General.

Alaska is one of seven states that currently does not elect its Attorney General in a general election, by the people. In addition to Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Wyoming leave selection of the Attorney General to an appointment by the governor. The Attorney General in Maine is elected by the Legislature and the Tennessee Supreme Court elects the Attorney general.

The people of Alaska would like to have an attorney general that is accountable to the people.

Voting for HJR 18 and passing it along to the voters will show Alaskans that we are willing to move forward and trust the people of Alaska to select an Attorney General who will vigorously represent the will of the people of our great state.