

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## *Explanation of Changes For CS HJR 18*

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

### **Section 2 – Page 1, line 16 and following**

Amended to include language establishing specific qualifications for the attorney general.

Deleted reference to the qualifications to be the same as a superior court judge.

Inserted the following: "The attorney general shall be a citizen of the United States, a qualified voter of the State, and a resident of Alaska. A person is not eligible to serve as attorney general unless the person is an active member of the organized state bar."

### **Section 2 – Page 2, lines 9-19**

Amended to include language describing the process to fill a vacancy in the office of attorney general.

Replaces section to include the following:

"(c) In case of a vacancy in the office of attorney general for any reason, the governor shall, by proclamation, call a special election to be held on a date not less than sixty or more than ninety days after the vacancy occurs. However, if the vacancy occurs on a date that is less than sixty days before or is on or after the date of the primary election each year in which an attorney general is regularly elected, the governor may not call a special election. The governor may, at least five days after a vacancy occurs but within thirty days after the date of the vacancy, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the results of the special election called to fill the vacancy are certified. If the special election is not called for the reasons provided in this subsection, the person shall fill the vacancy until the results of the next general election are certified."

This mirrors the process in place to fill a vacancy in the office of US Senator or US Representative for the state of Alaska.