



Alaska State Legislature

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House Joint Resolution 3 Sponsor Statement

Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of regular sessions of the Legislature

This resolution would align Alaska State Statute with the Alaska State Constitution with regard to the length of regular sessions of the Legislature. Last fall was the tenth anniversary of the ballot initiative passed by Alaskan voters in 2006 that statutorily established 90 day regular sessions of the Legislature. Since 2008, when the ballot initiative took effect, the Legislature has failed to adjourn within the statutory 90-day limit five times. In 2010 and 2012, the Legislature adjourned shortly after midnight of the 90th day, which caused no cost overruns. In 2014, 2015 and 2016 the Legislature ran past the statutory limit by five, eight, and 31 days respectively, incurring costs to the state of \$70,211, \$152,831, and \$698,772.

The variation between state statute and the constitution creates inconsistency in the law governing the length of regular sessions. This resolution allows Alaskan voters to decide, once and for all, on the length of regular sessions of the Legislature by voting on an amendment to the Alaska State Constitution. If passed by Alaskan voters, the amendment would change the length of the regular session in the Alaska State Constitution from 120 days to 90 days. That change would align the Constitution with State Statute. The Constitution already allows the Legislature to extend its regular session for 10 days by a two-thirds vote, and the amendment does not change that provision.

Please support HJR 3 in order to let the voters confirm length of regular sessions of the Legislature.