

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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EDUCATION

ETHICS

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

RULES

WORLD TRADE

**SENATOR Tom Begich**

*Senate Democratic Leader*

## Establishing April 24 Alaska Constitution Day Sponsor Statement

*Senate Bill 28*

*Version: 32-LS0278\B*

On April 24, 1956, the citizens of Alaska ratified the Constitution of the State of Alaska, “guaranteeing that the individual will always be in-charge,” and enshrining our State’s values of individual freedom, local control, and personal autonomy at the core of our Statehood. The purpose of our Constitution was to, “transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the United of States.”

Over the past 65 years, the laws and policies of our state have remained relevant and true. Those 55 delegates, so long ago, provided a visionary template for guided governance that has served this state well. Now is the time to recognize the persistence of our Constitution by establishing an annual reminder and celebration of the continuity of our state’s values.

Senate Bill 28 provides a bridge from the past to the future by establishing the Vic Fischer and Jack Coghill Constitution of the State of Alaska Day. If we know where we have come from, we will better attend to where we are going. As Alaska grapples with an unprecedented pandemic and increasing fiscal instability, let us all take a moment to remember the actions and efforts that shaped the state we are today and focus on the state we wish to become.