

# STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1993

Source  
HR 5

House  
Resolve No.  
5



Establishing a House Constitutional Revision Task Force to consider and recommend alternative methods by which the state constitution may be revised.

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## BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

**WHEREAS** the constitution of a state is of vital importance in expressing the collective agreement of a society as to how the state will conduct its affairs; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's Constitution was adopted 37 years ago and, developed as it was following an examination and analysis of the other state constitutions as they then read, the document was acknowledged at the time as a model state constitution; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska is a young state, with rapidly changing economic, social, communication, and political factors; and

**WHEREAS** the state's population has at least doubled since the 1955 - 1956 Constitutional Convention; and

**WHEREAS** the state constitution provides for two means of amendment, a decennial vote on convening another constitutional convention and use of resolutions approved by the legislature placing specific amendments on the ballot; and

**WHEREAS** neither method of revising the state constitution lends itself to adequate

citizen involvement in any contemplated changes to the state constitution; and

**WHEREAS** rapid changes in the state's population, vastly improved statewide communications, and an interest and desire on the part of many of the state's citizens to have a meaningful role in controlling their own destinies have led to calls for finding other ways of preparing, presenting, and ratifying changes to the constitution that would allow greater public participation in the process; and

**WHEREAS** an exploration of possible alternatives to the two existing methods of amending the state constitution would be beneficial to the legislature and to the people of the state.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives establishes a five-member House Constitutional Revision Task Force to consider and recommend alternative methods by which the Alaska Constitution may be revised; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the House of Representatives and two public members to the House Constitutional Revision Task Force, and shall designate one of the members appointed to chair the task force; the members shall be chosen in an effort to give the task force a membership that has the broadest backgrounds, experience, and perspectives possible; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force shall study alternative methods by which the state constitution may be revised, receive comments from the public about proposed alternative methods, and prepare and present to the House of Representatives its recommendations for alternative methods for revising the state constitution; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the expenses of the House Constitutional Revision Task Force be paid from money otherwise appropriated for the work of the Alaska State Legislature; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force is authorized to meet between and during the sessions of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature, and may hold public hearings and obtain information; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force shall

prepare and submit to the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature a preliminary report of its recommendations no later than February 1, 1994, and shall prepare and submit a final report of its recommendations no later than April 1, 1994; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force is terminated on the date of convening of the First Session of the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature.