

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS KELLY, Frank, Green

Introduced: 2/14/95

Referred: STA, FIN

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska requiring a  
2 runoff election when the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor obtaining  
3 the greatest number of votes at the general election do not receive more than  
4 50 percent of the votes cast, and changing the term of office of the governor  
5 and the lieutenant governor.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 \* **Section 1.** Article III, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

8 SECTION 3. ELECTION. The governor shall be chosen by the qualified  
9 voters of the State at a general election. The candidate receiving the greatest number  
10 of votes shall be governor **but only if the candidate receives more than fifty percent**  
11 **of the total number of votes cast for governor at the general election. If a**  
12 **candidate does not receive more than fifty percent of the votes cast for governor,**  
13 **a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of**  
14 **votes cast shall be held thirty-five days after the general election. At the runoff**  
15 **election, write-in ballots shall not be counted. In calculating the percentage of the**

1 votes cast at the general election, only votes that have been properly marked for  
2 a candidate for governor shall be counted.

3 \* **Sec. 2.** Article III, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

4 SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE. If a runoff election is required to elect  
5 a governor, then the [THE] term of office of the governor begins [IS FOUR YEARS,  
6 BEGINNING] at noon on the first day of January immediately after the governor's  
7 election. Otherwise, the term of office of the governor begins at noon on the first  
8 Monday in December following the governor's [HIS] election. The term of the  
9 governor ends when the governor's elected successor commences in office on a  
10 date determined under this section. Election for governor occurs every four years  
11 [AND ENDING AT NOON ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN DECEMBER FOUR  
12 YEARS LATER].

13 \* **Sec. 3.** Article III, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

14 SECTION 8. SAME ELECTION. The lieutenant governor shall be nominated  
15 in the manner provided by law for nominating candidates for other elective offices.  
16 In the general election and in any runoff election the votes cast for a candidate for  
17 governor shall be considered as cast also for the candidate for lieutenant governor  
18 running jointly with the candidate for governor [HIM]. The candidate whose name  
19 appears on the ballot jointly with that of the successful candidate for governor shall  
20 be elected lieutenant governor.

21 \* **Sec. 4.** Article XV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding a new  
22 section to read:

23 SECTION 29. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION APPLICABLE TO  
24 AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III, SECTION 4. The term of office of the governor  
25 in office at noon on the first Monday in December 1998 ends at that time unless,  
26 under Section 3 of Article III, a runoff election is required, in which case the term of  
27 office of that governor is extended and ends at noon on the first day of January 1999.

28 \* **Sec. 5.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of  
29 the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the  
30 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.