

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36(FIN)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/6/98
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GREEN, Martin, Mulder

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to
2 redistricting of the legislature, and repealing obsolete language setting out the
3 apportionment schedule used to elect the members of the first state legislature.

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

5 * Section 1. Article VI, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

6 Section 1. House [ELECTION] Districts. Members of the house of
7 representatives shall be elected by the qualified voters of the respective house
8 [ELECTION] districts. The boundaries of the house districts shall be set under this
9 article after each decennial census of the United States [UNTIL
10 REAPPORTIONMENT, ELECTION DISTRICTS AND THE NUMBER OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH DISTRICT SHALL BE
12 AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE XIV].

13 * Sec. 2. Article VI, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

14 Section 2. Senate Districts. Members of the senate shall be elected by the
15 qualified voters of the respective senate districts. The boundaries of the senate
16 districts shall be set under this article after each decennial census of the United

1 **States** [SENATE DISTRICTS SHALL BE AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 2 OF
2 ARTICLE XIV, SUBJECT TO CHANGES AUTHORIZED IN THIS ARTICLE].

3 * **Sec. 3.** Article VI, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

4 **Section 3. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] of House and Senate.**

5 The governor shall **redistrict** [REAPPORTION] the house of representatives **and the**
6 **senate** immediately following the official reporting of each decennial census of the
7 United States. **Redistricting** [REAPPORTIONMENT] shall be based upon **the**
8 [CIVILIAN] population within each **house and senate** [ELECTION] district as
9 reported by the census.

10 * **Sec. 4.** Article VI, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

11 **Section 4. Method of Redistricting. The governor shall establish forty**

12 **single-member house districts, and the governor shall establish twenty single-**

13 **member senate districts, each composed of two house districts**

14 [REAPPORTIONMENT SHALL BE BY THE METHOD OF EQUAL

15 PROPORTIONS, EXCEPT THAT EACH ELECTION DISTRICT HAVING THE

16 MAJOR FRACTION OF THE QUOTIENT OBTAINED BY DIVIDING TOTAL

17 CIVILIAN POPULATION BY FORTY SHALL HAVE ONE REPRESENTATIVE].

18 * **Sec. 5.** Article VI, sec. 6, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

19 **Section 6. District Boundaries [REDISTRICTING].** The governor **shall**

20 **establish** [MAY FURTHER REDISTRIBUTE BY CHANGING] the size and area of

21 **house** [ELECTION] districts, subject to the limitations of this article. Each **house**

22 [NEW] district [SO CREATED] shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory

23 containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each

24 shall contain a population **as near as practicable** [AT LEAST EQUAL] to the

25 quotient obtained by dividing the [TOTAL CIVILIAN] population **of the state** by

26 forty. **Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two**

27 **contiguous house districts.** Consideration may be given to local government

28 boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing

29 boundaries wherever possible.

30 * **Sec. 6.** Article VI, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

31 **Section 8. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] Board.** The governor

1 shall appoint a [REAPPORTIONMENT] board to act in an advisory capacity to **the**
 2 **governor** [HIM]. It shall consist of five members, **all of whom shall be residents of**
 3 **the state and** none of whom may be public employees or officials **at the time of and**
 4 **during the tenure of appointment** [. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER EACH SHALL
 5 BE APPOINTED FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN, SOUTHCENTRAL, CENTRAL,
 6 AND NORTHWESTERN SENATE DISTRICTS. APPOINTMENTS SHALL BE
 7 MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION]. Board members shall
 8 be compensated.

9 * **Sec. 7.** Article VI, sec. 10, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

10 **Section 10. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] Plan and Proclamation.**

11 Within ninety days following the official reporting of each decennial census, the board
 12 shall submit to the governor a plan for [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting as
 13 provided in this article. Within ninety days after receipt of the plan, the governor shall
 14 issue a proclamation of [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting. An
 15 accompanying statement shall explain any change from the plan of the board. The
 16 **final plan shall set out boundaries of house and senate districts and**
 17 [REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING] shall be effective for the election
 18 of members of the legislature until after the official reporting of the next decennial
 19 census.

20 * **Sec. 8.** Article VI, sec. 11, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

21 **Section 11. Enforcement.** Any qualified voter may apply to the superior
 22 court to compel the governor, by mandamus or otherwise, to perform **the** [HIS
 23 REAPPORTIONMENT] duties **assigned to the governor under this article** or to
 24 correct any error in redistricting [OR REAPPORTIONMENT]. Application to compel
 25 the governor to perform **the** [HIS REAPPORTIONMENT] duties **assigned to the**
 26 **governor under this article** must be filed within thirty days of the expiration of either
 27 of the two ninety-day periods specified in this article. Application to compel
 28 correction of any error in redistricting [OR REAPPORTIONMENT] must be filed
 29 within thirty days following the proclamation. Original jurisdiction in these matters
 30 is [HEREBY] vested in the superior court. On appeal **from the superior court**, the
 31 cause shall be reviewed by the supreme court **on** [UPON] the law and the facts,

1 **Notwithstanding Section 15 of Article IV, all dispositions by the superior court**
2 **and the supreme court under this section shall be expedited and shall have**
3 **priority over all other matters pending before the respective court. Upon a final**
4 **judicial decision that a plan is invalid, the matter shall be returned to the board**
5 **for correction and development of a new plan under this article and subsequent**
6 **action by the governor under section 10 of this article.**

7 * **Sec. 9.** Article XI, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

8 **Section 3. Petition.** After certification of the application, a petition containing
9 a summary of the subject matter shall be prepared by the lieutenant governor for
10 circulation by the sponsors. If signed by qualified voters, equal in number to ten per
11 cent of those who voted in the preceding general election and resident in at least two-
12 thirds of the **house** [ELECTION] districts of the State, it may be filed with the
13 lieutenant governor.

14 * **Sec. 10.** Article VI, secs. 5 and 7, and Article XIV, Constitution of the State of Alaska,
15 are repealed.

16 * **Sec. 11.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters
17 of the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the
18 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.