

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/10/98

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A RESOLUTION

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

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

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

7 **Section 1. Election Districts.** Members of the house of representatives shall
8 be elected by the qualified voters of the respective election districts. **The boundaries**
9 **of the election districts shall be set under this article after each decennial census**
10 **of the United States** [UNTIL REAPPORTIONMENT, ELECTION DISTRICTS AND
11 THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH
12 DISTRICT SHALL BE 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
8 [CIVILIAN] population within each election **and senate** district as reported by the
9 census.

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

11 **Section 4. Single-member Districts [METHOD]. The governor shall**
12 **establish forty single-member election districts, and shall establish twenty senate**
13 **districts composed of two contiguous election districts, with each senate district**
14 **to elect one senator.** [REAPPORTIONMENT SHALL BE BY THE METHOD OF
15 EQUAL PROPORTIONS, EXCEPT THAT EACH ELECTION DISTRICT HAVING
16 THE 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]. Election districts**
20 [THE GOVERNOR MAY FURTHER REDISTRICT BY CHANGING THE SIZE
21 AND AREA OF ELECTION DISTRICTS, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF
22 THIS ARTICLE. EACH NEW DISTRICT SO CREATED] shall be formed of
23 contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively
24 integrated socio-economic area. [EACH SHALL CONTAIN A POPULATION AT
25 LEAST EQUAL TO THE QUOTIENT OBTAINED BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL
26 CIVILIAN POPULATION BY FORTY.] Consideration may be given to local
27 government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in
28 describing boundaries wherever possible.

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

30 **Section 8. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] Board.** The governor
31 shall appoint a [REAPPORTIONMENT] board to act in an advisory capacity to **the**

1 **governor** [HIM]. It shall consist of five members, none of whom may be public
 2 employees or officials. At least one **board** member [EACH] shall be appointed from
 3 **each judicial district established by law under Section 1 of Article IV** [THE
 4 SOUTHEASTERN, SOUTHCENTRAL, CENTRAL, AND NORTHWESTERN
 5 SENATE DISTRICTS]. Appointments shall be made without regard to political
 6 affiliation. Board members shall be compensated.

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

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

9 Within ninety days following the official reporting of each decennial census, the board
 10 shall submit to the governor a plan for [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting as
 11 provided in this article. Within ninety days after receipt of the plan, the governor shall
 12 issue a proclamation of [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting. An
 13 accompanying statement shall explain any change from the plan of the board. The
 14 [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting shall be effective for the election of
 15 members of the legislature until after the official reporting of the next decennial
 16 census.

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

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

29 * **Sec. 9.** Article VI, secs. 5 and 7, and Article XIV, Constitution of the State of Alaska,
 30 are repealed.

31 * **Sec. 10.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters

- 1 of the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the
- 2 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.