

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE OGAN**

**Introduced: 1/16/02**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to requesting the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the**  
2 **Constitution of the United States that would address emergency appointments to and**  
3 **powers of the United States Senate.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the terrible events of September 11, 2001, have demonstrated that the  
6 United States is vulnerable to attack by terrorists; and

7 **WHEREAS** terrorists or other enemies of the United States have focused attacks on  
8 important seats of governmental power; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the United States has procedures that are inadequate  
10 to enable the United States Congress to continue to function if a majority of its seats were to  
11 become vacant due to an attack on the United States or as a result of a natural disaster or other  
12 emergency;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United  
14 States is respectfully requested to propose and submit to the states an amendment to the  
15 Constitution of the United States that would establish procedures to ensure that the United

1 States Congress will continue to function after emergencies which cause many vacancies in  
2 the body; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proposed amendment might contain procedures  
4 whereby, if a majority of the seats in the United States Senate become vacant, the legislatures  
5 of each of the states with vacant seats would make appointments within 10 days to fill those  
6 vacancies; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proposed amendment also might permit the United  
8 States Senate to exercise all of the powers of the United States Congress if a majority of the  
9 seats in the United States House of Representatives were to become vacant and might  
10 establish procedures under which the United States Senate would temporarily act as a  
11 unicameral body until vacancies in the United States House of Representatives are filled.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Majority  
13 Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
14 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable  
15 Richard A. Gephardt, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the  
16 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
17 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.