

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS DONLEY, Halford, Ward, Taylor, Cowdery, Phillips, Austerman

Introduced: 4/9/01

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to an**
2 **appropriation limit and a spending limit.**

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

4 * **Section 1.** Article IX, sec. 16, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed and
5 readopted to read:

6 **Section 16. Appropriation and Spending Limit.** (a) Except for
7 appropriations for Alaska permanent fund dividends, appropriations to the Alaska
8 permanent fund, appropriations to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor as
9 prescribed by law, appropriations for the Alaska Railroad, appropriations of revenue
10 bond proceeds, appropriations required to pay the principal and interest on general
11 obligation bonds, and appropriations of money received from the federal government,
12 appropriations made for a fiscal year shall not exceed \$3,100,000,000 by more than
13 fifty percent of the cumulative change, derived from federal indices as prescribed by
14 law, in population and inflation since July 1, 2000. The governor shall cause any
15 unexpended and unappropriated balance to be invested so as to yield competitive
16 market rates to the treasury.

1 (b) An appropriation that exceeds the limit established under (a) of this section
 2 may be made for any public purpose upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
 3 members of each house of the legislature. However, the total amount of
 4 appropriations made under this subsection for a fiscal year that exceeds the limit of (a)
 5 of this section, when added to other appropriations made for that year that are within
 6 the limit of (a) of this section, may not exceed \$3,100,000,000 by more than seventy-
 7 five percent of the cumulative change, derived from federal indices as prescribed by
 8 law, in population and inflation since July 1, 2000.

9 (c) If appropriations for a fiscal year exceed the amount that may be
 10 appropriated under (a) or (b) of this section, the governor shall reduce expenditures by
 11 the executive branch for its operation and administration to the extent necessary to
 12 avoid spending more than the amount that may be appropriated under (a) or (b) of this
 13 section. The operating expenditures of each of the principal departments established
 14 by law under Section 22 of Article III shall be reduced by an equal percentage. This
 15 subsection does not apply to expenditures that are approved by a resolution concurred
 16 in by at least two-thirds of the members of each house.

17 * **Sec. 2.** Article XV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding a new
 18 section to read:

19 **Section 30. Reconsideration of Appropriation and Spending Limit.** If the
 20 2002 amendment relating to an appropriation and spending limit (art. IX, sec. 16) is
 21 adopted, the lieutenant governor shall place the ballot title and proposition for the
 22 amendment on the ballot again at the general election in 2010 and every eight years
 23 thereafter unless it is rejected. If the majority of those voting on the proposition
 24 rejects the amendment, the amendment shall be repealed and Section 16 of Article IX
 25 shall be reenacted to read exactly as it did when it was first adopted in 1982.

26 * **Sec. 3.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of
 27 the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the
 28 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.