

**HOUSE BILL NO. 200**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES BERKOWITZ, Cissna, Crawford, Croft, Gara, Gruenberg, Guttenberg, Joule, Kapsner, Kerttula, Kookesh, Moses**

**Introduced: 3/19/03**

**Referred: State Affairs, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Legislative Council and the**  
2 **membership of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee; and providing for an**  
3 **effective date."**

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

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 24.20.020 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 24.20.020. Membership.** The legislative council is composed of the  
7 president of the senate and six other senators appointed by the president, and the  
8 speaker of the house of representatives and six other representatives appointed by the  
9 speaker. The membership from each house shall **meet the requirements of (b) of**  
10 **this section** [INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OF THE TWO  
11 MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES]. The appointing authority in each house shall make  
12 and announce the appointment or reappointment of members of the council within 15  
13 days after the convening of the first regular session of each legislature.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 24.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (b) The membership from each house must include at least one member from  
 2 each of the two major political parties. The membership from each house must also  
 3 include the number of minority members that is proportional to the number of  
 4 minority members in the house compared to the total house membership or to one seat,  
 5 whichever is greater. In calculating the number of seats the minority is entitled to,  
 6 fractional numbers that represent the minority proportional entitlement to a seat shall  
 7 be ignored. For purposes of this subsection, "minority" means a group of members  
 8 who have organized and elected a minority leader and who constitute at least 25  
 9 percent of the total house membership.

10 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 24.20.040 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 24.20.040. Vacancies.** When a vacancy occurs in the statutory or  
 12 appointive membership of the council, the presiding officer of the house incurring the  
 13 vacancy shall fill the vacancy within 30 days. If the office of the president of the  
 14 senate or speaker of the house of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy occurs  
 15 among the appointed members of the council, the remaining council members from  
 16 the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new member. **After a vacancy is**  
 17 **filled, the membership of the house that incurred the vacancy must meet the**  
 18 **requirements of AS 24.20.020(b)** [A LEGISLATOR APPOINTED TO FILL A  
 19 VACANCY SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS  
 20 THE MEMBER VACATING THE SEAT, WHEN POSSIBLE].

21 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 24.20.161 is amended to read:

22 **Sec. 24.20.161. Membership.** The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee  
 23 is composed of 10 members: the **chairs** [CHAIRMEN] of the senate and house  
 24 finance committees; one member selected from each of the senate and house finance  
 25 committees and appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house,  
 26 respectively; and three members appointed from each house by the respective  
 27 presiding officer. The **chair** [CHAIRMAN] of the finance committee may choose not  
 28 to serve on the committee. If this occurs, the presiding officer of the appropriate  
 29 house shall appoint a replacement from the finance committee. The membership from  
 30 each house shall **meet the requirements of (b) of this section** [INCLUDE AT  
 31 LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OF THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL

1 PARTIES]. The committee shall select its own **chair** [CHAIRMAN].

2 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 24.20.161 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (b) The membership from each house must include at least one member from  
 4 each of the two major political parties. The membership from each house must also  
 5 include the number of minority members that is proportional to the number of  
 6 minority members in the house compared to the total house membership or to one seat,  
 7 whichever is greater. In calculating the number of seats the minority is entitled to,  
 8 fractional numbers that represent the minority proportional entitlement to a seat shall  
 9 be ignored. For purposes of this subsection, "minority" means a group of members  
 10 who have organized and elected a minority leader and who constitute at least 25  
 11 percent of the total house membership.

12 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 24.20.181 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 24.20.181. Vacancies.** When a vacancy occurs in the statutory or  
 14 appointive membership of the committee, the presiding officer of the house incurring  
 15 the vacancy shall choose a successor. If the office of the president of the senate or  
 16 speaker of the house of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy from the  
 17 affected house occurs among the membership of the committee, the remaining  
 18 committee members from the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new  
 19 member. **After a vacancy is filled, the membership of the house that incurred the**  
 20 **vacancy must meet the requirements of AS 24.20.161(b).**

21 \* **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).