

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Croft, Gara

Introduced: 2/21/03

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to open**
2 **meetings.**

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

4 * **Section 1.** INTENT. (a) The purpose of the amendment to art. II, Constitution of the State
5 of Alaska, proposed in sec. 2 of this resolution is to make openness in government the rule and
6 secrecy the exception. The amendment ensures that the public is not excluded during the
7 substantive deliberative and decision-making stages of the budgetary and lawmaking process.

8 (b) This amendment is not intended to prevent the free flow of ideas among legislators
9 or their participation in public forums, community events, site visitations, or social events.

10 (c) In the preparation of the neutral summary under AS 15.58.020(6)(C), the Legislative
11 Affairs Agency shall consider the statement of legislative intent contained in (a) and (b) of this
12 section.

13 * **Sec. 2.** Article II, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding a new section
14 to read:

15 **Section 22. Meetings Open.** (a) Unless the legislature or a committee of the
16 legislature is meeting in executive session to consider matters authorized by law to be

1 considered in executive session, the discussions and debates of each house of the
2 legislature and its committees shall be open to the public.

3 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, private and substantive discussions
4 and debates on legislation under the legislature's jurisdiction by a quorum of a house of
5 the legislature or a quorum of a committee are prohibited. A court may not prescribe
6 rules or procedures for the conduct of legislative business or invalidate legislation
7 because of a violation of this section. Notwithstanding Section 6 of this article, a court
8 may impose a civil fine in an amount authorized by law upon a member of the
9 legislature for a wilful violation of this section and may impose other sanctions or
10 remedies authorized by law.

11 (c) The legislature shall implement this section.

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