

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MEYER

Introduced: 1/15/08

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proposing an amendment to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating**
2 **to abstention from voting.**

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

4 * **Section 1.** Rule 34(b), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

5 (b) Abstention. Every member present in the house shall vote unless the house
6 allows [FOR SPECIAL REASONS PERMITS] a member to abstain. A request to
7 abstain [ALL MOTIONS EXCUSING A MEMBER] from voting shall be made
8 before the house divides or before the call for the yeas and nays is commenced. A
9 member may request to abstain from voting if the member reasonably believes
10 that by voting the member would violate a specific provision of AS 24.60
11 (Legislative Ethics Act), or for any other reason. A request to abstain shall be
12 accompanied by [MEMBER REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED FROM VOTING
13 MAY MAKE] a brief oral statement of the reasons for the request and, if the request
14 is made to avoid violating a specific provision of AS 24.60, a reference to or
15 citation of the specific provision of that chapter that requires the member's
16 abstention. A request to abstain that is made solely to avoid violating a specific

1 **provision of AS 24.60 shall be decided by a majority vote of the members**
2 **present; otherwise, a member may be allowed to abstain only upon the**
3 **unanimous consent of the membership. The** [REQUEST AND THE] question of
4 granting permission to abstain shall be taken without further debate **and, a** [. A]
5 member may not explain a vote, may not discuss the question while the yeas and nays
6 are being called, and may not change a vote after the roll call result has been
7 announced. Upon division and count of the house of any question a member who is
8 not within the chamber may not be counted. [A MEMBER MAY NOT BE
9 PERMITTED TO ABSTAIN EXCEPT UPON THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF
10 THE MEMBERSHIP.]