

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARDNER, Kawasaki, LeDoux

Introduced: 1/28/08

Referred: State Affairs, Rules

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Proposing an amendment to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating**  
2 **to 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; **however, a**  
6 **member shall request permission to abstain from voting if the member**  
7 **reasonably believes that by voting the member would violate a provision of**  
8 **AS 24.60.030 that prohibits a member from voting. The member shall give notice**  
9 **of the request before the house divides or before the call for the yeas and nays is**  
10 **commenced and shall make a brief oral statement of the reason that the member**  
11 **requests permission to abstain and the specific provision of AS 24.60.030 that**  
12 **requires the member's abstention. After notice of the request is made, the leader**  
13 **of the majority caucus and the leader of the minority caucus, if any, shall each**  
14 **cast a vote on the question of whether AS 24.60.030 requires the member to**  
15 **abstain. If the leader of the majority caucus or the leader of the minority caucus**  
16 **or both vote yes on the question, the member shall abstain** [UNLESS THE

1 HOUSE FOR SPECIAL REASONS PERMITS A MEMBER TO ABSTAIN. ALL  
2 MOTIONS EXCUSING A MEMBER FROM VOTING SHALL BE MADE  
3 BEFORE THE HOUSE DIVIDES OR BEFORE THE CALL FOR THE YEAS AND  
4 NAYS IS COMMENCED. A MEMBER REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED FROM  
5 VOTING MAY MAKE A BRIEF ORAL STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR  
6 THE REQUEST AND THE QUESTION OF GRANTING PERMISSION TO  
7 ABSTAIN SHALL BE TAKEN WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE. A MEMBER  
8 MAY NOT EXPLAIN A VOTE, MAY NOT DISCUSS THE QUESTION WHILE  
9 THE YEAS AND NAYS ARE BEING CALLED, AND MAY NOT CHANGE A  
10 VOTE AFTER THE ROLL CALL RESULT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. UPON  
11 DIVISION AND COUNT OF THE HOUSE OF ANY QUESTION A MEMBER  
12 WHO IS NOT WITHIN THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE COUNTED. A MEMBER  
13 MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ABSTAIN EXCEPT UPON THE UNANIMOUS  
14 CONSENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP].