

**SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARDNER, Kawasaki, LeDoux

Introduced: 2/6/08

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) **Voting**; Abstention. Every member present in the house shall vote  
6 [UNLESS THE HOUSE FOR SPECIAL REASONS PERMITS A MEMBER TO  
7 ABSTAIN. ALL MOTIONS EXCUSING A MEMBER FROM VOTING SHALL BE  
8 MADE BEFORE THE HOUSE DIVIDES OR BEFORE THE CALL FOR THE  
9 YEAS AND NAYS IS COMMENCED. A MEMBER REQUESTING TO BE  
10 EXCUSED FROM VOTING MAY MAKE A BRIEF ORAL STATEMENT OF THE  
11 REASONS FOR THE REQUEST AND THE QUESTION OF GRANTING  
12 PERMISSION TO ABSTAIN SHALL BE TAKEN WITHOUT FURTHER  
13 DEBATE]. A member may not explain a vote, may not discuss the question while the  
14 yeas and nays are being called, and may not change a vote after the roll call result has  
15 been announced. Upon division and count of the house of any question, a member  
16 who is not within the chamber may not be counted. **If a member reasonably believes**

1 that by voting the member would violate a provision of AS 24.60.030 that  
2 prohibits a member from voting,

3 (1) the member shall request permission to abstain from voting;  
4 the member shall make the request by giving notice of the request before the  
5 house divides or before the call for the yeas and nays is commenced, and shall  
6 make a brief oral statement of the reason that the member requests permission to  
7 abstain and the specific provision of AS 24.60.030 that the member believes  
8 requires the member's abstention;

9 (2) after notice of the request is made, the leader of the majority  
10 caucus and the leader of the minority caucus, if any, shall each cast a vote on the  
11 question of whether AS 24.60.030 requires the member to abstain; if a caucus  
12 leader is absent, or is the person who gave notice of the request to abstain, then  
13 the whip for that leader's caucus shall vote on the question instead of the leader;

14 (3) if both of the persons who are required to vote under (2) of this  
15 subsection vote no on the question described in (2) of this subsection, then the  
16 member requesting permission may not abstain [A MEMBER MAY NOT BE  
17 PERMITTED TO ABSTAIN EXCEPT UPON THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF  
18 THE MEMBERSHIP].