

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG**

**Introduced: 2/19/08**

**Referred: State Affairs, Rules**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Proposing amendments to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to**  
2 **withdrawing measures, to sponsors of measures, to prefiling measures, and to the three**  
3 **readings of bills.**

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

5 \* **Section 1.** Rule 27(b), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

6 (b) After a bill or resolution has been introduced, or a motion for the adoption  
7 of an amendment has been made, and is read by the clerk or secretary or stated by the  
8 presiding officer, it is deemed to be in possession of the house. It may be withdrawn at  
9 any time **while in possession of the house** [BY THE MEMBER INTRODUCING OR  
10 REPORTING IT] if consent is given by a majority vote of the full membership of the  
11 house. **Only the prime sponsor of the measure, a joint prime sponsor of the**  
12 **measure with agreement of all other joint prime sponsors, or the chair of the**  
13 **committee that introduced the measure may move to withdraw the measure.**

14 \* **Sec. 2.** Rule 36, Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

15 **Rule 36. Prefiling of Bills.** (a) **Drafts of** [BILLS OR] proposals for bills **or**

1 resolutions may be requested from [PREFILED WITH THE EXECUTIVE  
 2 DIRECTOR OF] the Legislative Affairs Agency at any time before January 1. All  
 3 requests are confidential [AND ARE LIMITED TO BILLS AND THOSE JOINT  
 4 RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE OR FEDERAL  
 5 CONSTITUTIONS]. Each measure [BILLS] given final approval by the prime  
 6 sponsor, or all joint prime sponsors, will be assigned a number and duplicated  
 7 before or during the week before [PRIOR TO] the convening date of the session and  
 8 made available to the press and public. A member or member elect may request as  
 9 prime sponsor no more than 10 measures [BILLS] for prefiling and, as joint prime  
 10 sponsor, up to an additional 20 measures for prefiling. A draft [DRAFTS] of a  
 11 measure [PREFILED BILLS] not receiving sponsor approval prior to the convening  
 12 day of the session will not be introduced as a prefiled measure [BILLS], but, at the  
 13 direction of the prime sponsor or of all joint prime sponsors, will be prepared in  
 14 final form by the agency staff, subject to the demands of assigned interim and pre-  
 15 session work.

16 (b) Prefiled measures [BILLS] are submitted to each house for formal  
 17 introduction and first reading at the commencement of the first regular session on the  
 18 day when the house is organized to the point where it has committees to receive  
 19 measures [BILLS], or on the first day of the second regular session. Prefiled bills are  
 20 read and referred to committee in advance of other bills. Prefiled resolutions are  
 21 read and referred to committee in advance of other resolutions.

22 \* **Sec. 3.** Rule 37(a), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

23 (a) Any member, group of members, standing, special, or joint committee may  
 24 introduce a measure [BILL], subject to the provisions of these Uniform Rules.  
 25 Measures introduced by members must have at least one prime sponsor or more  
 26 than one joint prime sponsor, and may have cosponsors. After introduction,  
 27 when the measure is in the possession of the house of origin and with approval of  
 28 the prime sponsor or of all joint prime sponsors, additional members may be  
 29 added as joint prime sponsors or as cosponsors. When the measure is in the  
 30 possession of the second house, a member of that house may be added as cross  
 31 cosponsor with the approval of the prime sponsor or of all joint prime sponsors.

1 A **measure** [BILL] must be introduced, in proper form as approved by the enrolling  
 2 secretary of the legislature, with the original and three copies delivered to the chief  
 3 clerk or secretary. The **measure** [BILL] is then assigned a number which it retains  
 4 through subsequent changes and substitutions. The **measure** [BILL] is considered  
 5 formally introduced when the clerk or secretary reads the heading and title aloud in  
 6 open session (first reading). Bills **and resolutions** may be introduced through the  
 7 Rules Committees by the governor, **the chief justice of the state supreme court**, and  
 8 the permanent interim committees pursuant to provisions of law. **A member may**  
 9 **move to withdraw the member's name as sponsor of a measure when it is in**  
 10 **possession of the house in which it was introduced.**

11 \* **Sec. 4.** Rule 39(b), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

12 (b) First Reading. The first reading consists of a reading aloud by the clerk or  
 13 secretary of the following information: [THE] house of origin, **heading and** [THE]  
 14 bill number, **sponsorship** [THE SPONSOR], and [THE] title of the bill, e.g., "In the  
 15 House, House Bill No. ..., by ..... and ..... ....., A bill for an Act entitled, 'An Act  
 16 relating to a code of ethics for state employees.'" **Notwithstanding the foregoing, the**  
 17 **presiding officer may direct the clerk or secretary to dispense with the reading of**  
 18 **the full title, in which case only the first phrase of the title shall be read.** The bill is  
 19 then referred by the presiding officer to one or more committees. The house may, by a  
 20 majority vote of the full membership of the house, refer the bill to any other standing  
 21 or special committee.

22 \* **Sec. 5.** Rule 39(d), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, is amended to read:

23 (d) Third Reading. On its third reading the bill is read by heading and title  
 24 only. **The presiding officer may direct the clerk or secretary to dispense with the**  
 25 **reading of the full title, in which case only the first phrase of the title shall be**  
 26 **read.** The question on third reading of a bill is upon its final passage and no  
 27 amendments may be considered. No bill may become law without an affirmative vote  
 28 of the majority of the membership of each house. The yeas and nays on final passage,  
 29 noting the name and vote of each member, shall be entered in the journal. The bill is  
 30 then engrossed or enrolled, as appropriate, at the direction of the clerk or secretary.