

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG

Introduced: 2/13/08

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

(b) After a bill or resolution has been introduced, or a motion for the adoption of an amendment has been made, and is read by the clerk or secretary or stated by the presiding officer, it is deemed to be in possession of the house. A measure in possession of the house of origin [IT] may be withdrawn at any time before it is first transmitted to the second house [BY THE MEMBER INTRODUCING OR REPORTING IT] if consent is given by a majority vote of the full membership [OF THE HOUSE]. Only the prime sponsor of the measure, a joint prime sponsor of the measure with agreement of all other joint prime sponsors, or the chair of the committee that introduced the measure may move to withdraw it.

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

1 **Rule 36. Prefiling of Measures [BILLS].** (a) **Drafts of** [BILLS OR]
 2 proposals for bills **or resolutions** may be **requested from** [PREFILED WITH THE
 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF] the Legislative Affairs Agency at any time before
 4 January 1. All requests are confidential [AND ARE LIMITED TO BILLS AND
 5 THOSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE
 6 OR FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS]. **Each measure** [BILLS] given final approval by
 7 the **prime** sponsor **or all joint prime sponsors** will be assigned a number and
 8 duplicated **before or** during the week **before** [PRIOR TO] the convening date of the
 9 session and made available to the press and public. A member **or member elect** may
 10 request **as sole prime sponsor** no more than 10 **measures** [BILLS] for prefiling **and**
 11 **as joint prime sponsor up to an additional 20 measures for prefiling. A draft**
 12 [DRAFTS] of **a measure** [PREFILED BILLS] not receiving sponsor approval prior to
 13 the **agency deadline for numbering and printing the prefiled measures**
 14 [CONVENING DAY OF THE SESSION] will not be introduced as **a** prefiled
 15 **measure** [BILLS], but, at the direction of the **prime** sponsor **or of all joint prime**
 16 **sponsors**, will be prepared in final form by the agency staff, subject to the demands of
 17 assigned interim and pre-session work.

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

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

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

possession of the second house, a member of that house may be added as cross cosponsor with the approval of the prime sponsor or of all joint prime sponsors.

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

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

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

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

(d) Third Reading. On its third reading the bill is read by heading and title only. The presiding officer may direct the clerk or secretary to dispense with the reading of the full title, in which case only the first phrase of the title shall be read or so much of it as is required by the presiding officer. The question on third reading of a bill is upon its final passage and no amendments may be considered. No bill may become law without an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership of

1 each house. The yeas and nays on final passage, noting the name and vote of each
2 member, shall be entered in the journal. The bill is then engrossed or enrolled, as
3 appropriate, at the direction of the clerk or secretary.