

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR FRENCH

Introduced: 2/21/12

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the
2 membership of the Redistricting Board.

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

4 * **Section 1.** Article VI, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

5 **Section 8. Redistricting Board.** (a) There shall be a redistricting board. It
6 shall consist of fourteen [FIVE] members, all of whom shall be registered voters in
7 the State [RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR AND NONE
8 OF WHOM MAY BE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF
9 OR DURING THE TENURE OF APPOINTMENT. APPOINTMENTS SHALL BE
10 MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION]. Board members
11 shall be compensated. The board shall consist of

12 (1) five members who are registered as affiliated with the largest
13 political party in the State based on registration;

14 (2) five members who are registered as affiliated with the second
15 largest political party in the State based on registration; and

16 (3) four members who are not affiliated with either of the two

1 largest political parties in the State based on registration.

2 (b) Members of the Redistricting Board shall be selected in the manner
 3 provided by (c) of this section from a pool established by the State department or
 4 agency charged with administering elections in the State. The pool shall consist of
 5 fifteen registered voters from each judicial district of the State who have voted in
 6 the preceding four general elections in the State and who have not changed their
 7 political affiliation over the period of the last four general elections in the State.
 8 Of those voters, one-third shall be voters affiliated with the largest political party
 9 in the State based on registration, one-third shall be voters affiliated with the
 10 second largest political party in the State based on registration, and one-third
 11 shall be voters unaffiliated with either of the two largest political parties in the
 12 State based on registration.

13 (c) The State department or agency charged with administering elections
 14 in the State shall select by lottery two board members from each judicial district
 15 of the State to serve on the Redistricting Board, except that the lottery result shall
 16 be voided and the lottery shall be repeated if more than five board members are
 17 selected from one of the two largest political parties in the State based on
 18 registration or if more than four board members who are not affiliated with
 19 either of the two largest political parties in the State based on registration are
 20 selected. The members chosen by the State department or agency charged with
 21 administering elections in the State shall select the remaining members of the
 22 Redistricting Board from the pool established under (b) of this section, so that the
 23 composition of the board is as provided under (a) of this section.

24 (d) [(b)] Members of the Redistricting Board shall be selected [APPOINTED]
 25 in the year in which an official decennial census of the United States is taken and by
 26 September 1 of that year. [THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS
 27 OF THE BOARD. THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE SENATE, THE
 28 PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE
 29 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL EACH APPOINT ONE
 30 MEMBER OF THE BOARD. THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD SHALL BE
 31 MADE IN THE ORDER LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION. AT LEAST ONE

1 BOARD MEMBER SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 2 THAT EXISTED ON JANUARY 1, 1999.] Board members serve until a final plan for
 3 redistricting and proclamation of redistricting has been adopted and all challenges to it
 4 brought under Section 11 of this article have been resolved after final remand or
 5 affirmation.

6 **(e)** [(c)] A person who was a member of the Redistricting Board at any time
 7 during the process leading to final adoption of a redistricting plan under Section 10 of
 8 this article may not be a candidate for the legislature **until after the next decennial**
 9 **census of the United States is taken and another Redistricting Board has adopted**
 10 **a** [IN THE GENERAL ELECTION FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE] final
 11 redistricting plan.

12 * **Sec. 2.** Article VI, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

13 **Section 9. Board Actions.** The board shall elect one of its members chairman
 14 and may employ temporary assistants. Concurrence of **nine** [THREE] members of the
 15 Redistricting Board is required for actions of the Board, but a lesser number may
 16 conduct hearings. The board shall employ or contract for services of independent legal
 17 counsel.

18 * **Sec. 3.** Article VI, sec. 10(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

19 (b) Adoption of a final redistricting plan shall require the affirmative votes of
 20 **nine** [THREE] members of the Redistricting Board.

21 * **Sec. 4.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of
 22 the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the
 23 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.