

Introduced: 3/8/63
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR BRONSON

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SENATE BILL NO. 149

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to equal newspaper space
7 for the legislature and its members to
8 answer editorial criticism and charges."

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

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* Section 1. AS 24 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

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CHAPTER 55. EQUAL NEWSPAPER SPACE TO ANSWER

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EDITORIAL CHARGES BY LEGISLATURE OR ITS MEMBERS

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Sec. 24.55.010. WHEN ENTITLED TO REPLY. The legisla-

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ture as a body or any of its members individually shall be

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given free and equal newspaper space to reply in the same

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newspaper to editorials or articles that charge the legisla-

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ture or any of its members with incompetency, ineffectiveness,

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failing to support constituents, wasting public funds, con-

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trol by outside interests, un-American or un-Alaskan conduct,

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or scandalous conduct unbecoming a legislature or a member of

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the legislature.

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Sec. 24.55.020. OBLIGATION OF NEWSPAPER. The news-

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paper printing the editorial or article charging the

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legislature or any of its members with an act specified under

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sec. 10 of this chapter shall give the legislature or any of

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its members free space on the front page of approximately

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the same size as the original editorial or article. Space

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shall be given within seven days of the publication of the

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accusing editorial or article.

SB #149

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Sec. 24.55.030. LEGISLATIVE REPLY BY JOINT COMMITTEE.

A legislative reply to an editorial or article that charges the acts specified in sec. 10 of this chapter shall be made by a joint committee of both houses composed of members of both political parties and independent members, if any. The political party of the Speaker of the House shall have the majority of committee members. The size of the committee and the selection of its members may be decided by each legislature.

Sec. 24.55.040. VIOLATION. A person violating sec. 20

of this chapter is punishable upon conviction by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both.