

Introduced: 1/28/65
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS PERATROVICH
AND BLODGETT

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Petitioning Congress to propose an

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amendment to the federal constitu-

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tion to preserve the bicameral

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aspect of state legislatures.

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

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WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court has held that both

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houses of a bicameral state legislature must be apportioned on

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the basis of population; and

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WHEREAS this holding now makes it impossible to apportion

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representation to reflect the diverse and conflicting interests

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within a state; and

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WHEREAS the decision of the Court will enable heavily popula-

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ted areas to dominate state legislatures and will lead to a virtual

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loss of representation in all other areas of the state; and

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WHEREAS in order to prevent this complete disruption of the

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legislative process in the states, and to preserve for each state

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the right to balance its representation in the manner best suited

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to its individual situation, it is essential that the Constitution

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of the United States be amended to enable the state to apportion

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at least one house of its legislature on factors other than

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population;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska

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respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to propose

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an amendment in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of

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the United States, adding to the Constitution an article allowing

SJR 4 am by House

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1 any state having a bicameral legislature to apportion the membership
2 to one house of its legislature on factors other than population;
3 and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
5 the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United
6 States and President of the Senate; the Honorable Carl Hayden,
7 President pro tempore of the Senate; the Honorable John W.
8 McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable
9 E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, Senators from
10 Alaska; and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Congressman from
11 Alaska; and the presiding officers of each house of the legisla-
12 tures of the several states.

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