

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR KILCHER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the
6 Constitution of the State of
7 Alaska providing for a uni-
8 cameral legislature.

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

10 * Section 1. Secs. 1, 2, 3, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 20, art. II,
11 Constitution of the State of Alaska are amended to read:

12 SECTION 1. The legislative power of the State is
13 vested in a legislature consisting of a single house
14 [SENATE WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF TWENTY AND A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES] with a membership of forty-five senators [FORTY].

16 SECTION 2. A member of the legislature shall be a
17 qualified voter who has been a resident of Alaska for at
18 least three years and of the district from which elected for
19 at least one year, immediately preceding his filing for
20 office. A senator shall be at least twenty-three [TWENTY-
21 FIVE] years of age [AND A REPRESENTATIVE AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE
22 YEARS OF AGE].

23 SECTION 3. Legislators shall be elected at general
24 elections. Their terms begin on the fourth Monday of the
25 January following election unless otherwise provided by law.
26 The [TERM OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE TWO YEARS, AND THE]
27 term of senators [,] is six [FOUR] years. One-third [ONE-
28 HALF] of the senators shall be elected every two years.

29 SECTION 12. The [HOUSES OF EACH] legislature shall

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

adopt [UNIFORM] rules of procedure. The legislature [EACH HOUSE] may choose its officers and employees. The legislature [EACH] is the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and may expel a member with the concurrence of two-thirds of its members. The legislature [EACH] shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the membership of the legislature [EACH HOUSE] constitutes a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel the attendance of absent members. The legislature shall regulate lobbying.

SECTION 14. The legislature shall establish the procedure for the enactment of bills into law. No bill may become law unless it has passed three readings [IN EACH HOUSE] on three separate days, except that any bill may be advanced from second to third reading on the same day by concurrence of three-fourths of the membership [HOUSE CONSIDERING IT]. No bill may become law without an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the legislature [EACH HOUSE]. The yeas and nays on final passage shall be entered in the journal.

SECTION 16. Upon receipt of a veto message, the legislature shall meet immediately in joint session and reconsider passage of the vetoed bill or item. Bills to raise revenue and appropriation bills or items, although vetoed, become law by affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of the legislature. Other vetoed bills become law by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the legislature. The vote on reconsideration of a vetoed bill shall be entered on the journal [JOURNALS OF BOTH HOUSES].

SJR 54



1 SECTION 18. Laws passed by the legislature become
2 effective ninety days after enactment. The legislature may,
3 by concurrence of two-thirds of its membership [THE MEMBER-
4 SHIP OF EACH HOUSE], provide for another effective date.

5 * Sec. 2. Sec. 20, art. II, Alaska State Constitution, is
6 repealed and replaced with the following new section:

7 SECTION 20. All civil officers of the State are subject
8 to impeachment by the legislature. Impeachment originates
9 with the senior members of the legislature who constitutes
10 the upper third of the body which is next subject to re-
11 election and must be approved by two-thirds of the members of
12 that group. The motion for impeachment shall list fully the
13 basis for the proceeding. Trial on impeachment shall be
14 conducted by the lower two-thirds of the legislature. A
15 supreme court justice designated by the court shall preside
16 at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of the two-thirds of
17 the members eligible to sit in judgment is required for a
18 judgment of impeachment. The judgment may not extend beyond
19 removal from office, but shall not prevent proceedings in the
20 courts on the same or related charges.

21 * Sec. 3. Sec. 10, art. II, Constitution of the State of
22 Alaska, is repealed.

23 * Sec. 4. Secs. 1-8, art. VI, Alaska State Constitution, are
24 repealed and replaced with the following new sections:

25 SECTION 1. Members of the legislature are elected by
26 the qualified voters of the respective election districts.
27 The number of persons represented by each legislator is
28 determined by dividing 45 into the total population of the
29 state as reported in the decennial census. The population

1 in each election district shall be as mathematically equal
2 as possible. The governor shall apportion and district the
3 state for legislative representation with the advice of the
4 reapportionment board.

5 SECTION 2. The governor appoints a reapportionment
6 board to act in an advisory capacity to him. It consists of
7 five members appointed without reference to party affiliation.
8 Board members may not be employees or officials of the state
9 or federal government or of any political subdivision of the
10 state.

11 * Sec. 5. The amendments proposed by secs. 1 and 2 of this
12 resolution shall be placed before the voters of the state at the
13 next statewide election in conformity with Section 1, Article
14 XIII, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the state
15 election code.