

Introduced: 3/16/68  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST  
OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the establishment of a  
6 committee to assure the continued flow  
7 of news to the public, to protect the  
8 rights of defendants in criminal  
9 matters, and to assure continued ac-  
10 cess by news media of Alaska to the  
11 sources of information on court cases.

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

13 WHEREAS an issue of increasing major importance in the nation today in-  
14 volves the right of the news media to have access to and the right to  
15 publish facts and circumstances of a varying nature about persons involved  
16 in legal proceedings; and

17 WHEREAS it is the desire of the Fifth State Legislature to avoid any  
18 possible conflict in Alaska between the bench, the bar and the news media  
19 and to be sure at the same time that the general public receives information  
20 concerning legal proceedings of all types that does not prejudice any party  
21 to an action;

22 BE IT RESOLVED that it is the intent and earnest desire of the Fifth  
23 State Legislature that a committee on relations between the bench, the press  
24 and the bar be formed; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the desire of the Legislature that the  
26 committee shall consist of eight persons: one person to be appointed by the  
27 President of the Senate; one person to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
28 House of Representatives; one person to be appointed by the Governor; one  
29 person to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; one

1 person to be appointed by the Bar Association; one person to be appointed  
2 by the Alaska Broadcaster's Association; one person to be appointed by the  
3 Alaska Publisher's Association; and the Superior Court Judge who is assigned  
4 to the Family Court; and be it

5       FURTHER RESOLVED that these appointments be made at the earliest  
6 possible time after passage of this Resolution and that the committee meet  
7 and formulate policies acceptable to all concerned, and in particular  
8 dealing with access to public records, the publication of facts, testimony  
9 and circumstances surrounding criminal, civil and juvenile proceedings; and  
10 be it

11       FURTHER RESOLVED that this committee report their recommendations to  
12 the Sixth Legislature, First Session, including any recommendations of  
13 statutory changes which the committee might feel are necessary to effectuate  
14 their recommendations.

15       COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to The Honorable Walter J.  
16 Hickel, Governor of Alaska; The Honorable Buell Nesbett, Chief Justice of  
17 the Supreme Court; The Honorable Roger Connor, President of the Alaska Bar  
18 Association; The Honorable Elvin O. Bramstedt, President of the Alaska  
19 Broadcaster's Association; and to The Honorable Lew Williams, Jr., President  
20 of the Alaska Publisher's Association.

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