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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY STEVENS AND SIMPSON

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the Constitution
6 of the State of Alaska providing for a
7 one-house legislature.

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

9 * Section 1. Secs. 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, and 20, art. II,
10 Constitution of the State of Alaska are amended to read:

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

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

21 SECTION 3. Legislators shall be elected at general elections.
22 Their terms begin on the fourth Monday of the January following
23 election unless otherwise provided by law. The [TERM OF REPRESENTA-
24 TIVES SHALL BE TWO YEARS, AND THE] term of senators [,] shall be
25 four years. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two
26 years.

27 SECTION 12. The [HOUSES OF EACH] legislature shall adopt
28 [UNIFORM] rules of procedure. The legislature [EACH HOUSE] may
29 choose its officers and employees. The legislature [EACH] is the

1 judge of the election and qualifications of its members and may expel
2 a member with the concurrence of two-thirds of its members. The
3 legislature [EACH] shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A
4 majority of the membership of the legislature [EACH HOUSE] consti-
5 tutes a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from
6 day to day and may compel attendance of absent members. The legis-
7 lature shall regulate lobbying.

8 SECTION 14. The legislature shall establish the procedure for
9 the enactment of bills into law. No bill may become law unless it
10 has passed three readings [IN EACH HOUSE] on three separate days,
11 except that any bill may be advanced from second to third reading on
12 the same day by concurrence of three-fourths of the membership [HOUSE
13 CONSIDERING IT]. No vote on final passage of a bill may be taken
14 until five legislative days after its introduction and until at
15 least one legislative day after the date publically announced for
16 it to appear on the daily calendar. No bill may become law without
17 an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the
18 legislature [EACH HOUSE]. The yeas and nays on final passage shall
19 be entered in the journal.

20 SECTION 15. The governor may veto bills passed by the legis-
21 lature. He may, by veto, strike or reduce items in appropriation
22 bills. He shall return any vetoed bill, with a statement of his
23 objections, to the legislature [HOUSE OF ORIGIN].

24 SECTION 16. Upon receipt of a veto message, the legislature
25 shall meet immediately [IN JOINT SESSION] and reconsider passage of
26 the vetoed bill or item. Bills to raise revenue and appropriation
27 bills or items, although vetoed, become law by affirmative vote of
28 three-fourths of the membership of the legislature. Other vetoed
29 bills become law by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership

1 of the legislature. The vote on reconsideration of a vetoed bill
2 shall be entered on the journal [JOURNALS] of the legislature [BOTH
3 HOUSES].

4 SECTION 18. Laws passed by the legislature become effective
5 ninety days after enactment. The legislature may, by concurrence of
6 two-thirds of the membership [OF EACH HOUSE], provide for another
7 effective date.

8 SECTION 20. All civil officers of the State are subject to im-
9 peachment by the legislature. Impeachment [SHALL ORIGINATE IN THE
10 SENATE AND] must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members.
11 The motion for impeachment shall list fully the basis for the pro-
12 ceeding. The legislature shall provide by law a procedure for the
13 trial and removal from office of officers of the state. [TRIAL ON
14 IMPEACHMENT SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A
15 SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DESIGNATED BY THE COURT SHALL PRESIDE AT THE
16 TRIAL.] Concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the tribunal
17 [HOUSE] is required for a judgement of impeachment. The judgement
18 may not extend beyond removal from office, but shall not prevent
19 proceedings in the courts on the same or related charges.

20 * Sec. 2. Sec. 10, art. II, Constitution of the State of Alaska is
21 repealed.

22 * Sec. 3. Secs. 1 - 8, art. VI, Constitution of the State of Alaska
23 are repealed and replaced by the following new sections:

24 SECTION 1. Members of the legislature are elected by the
25 qualified voters of the respective election districts. No more than
26 five legislators may be elected from an election district. The
27 number of persons represented by each legislator is determined by
28 dividing the total membership of the legislature into the total
29 civilian population of the state as reported in the decennial census.

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The population assigned to each legislative seat shall be as mathematically equal as possible. The governor shall apportion and district the state for legislative representation with the advice of the reapportionment board.

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

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