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Referred: State Affairs and  
Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ORSINI

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the state con-  
6 stitution revising the method and  
7 procedure for redistricting the senate  
8 and house of representatives of the  
9 state legislature.

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

11 \* Section 1. Article VI, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed  
12 and re-adopted to read:

13 ARTICLE VI. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTING.

14 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS. Members of the senate and of  
15 the house of representatives shall be elected by the qualified voters of  
16 the respective senate and representative districts. A legislative dis-  
17 trict consists of at least one senate seat or district and two represen-  
18 tative seats or districts. Until redistricting, legislative districts  
19 and the number of senators and representatives to be elected from each  
20 district shall be as they exist on the effective date of this article.

21 SECTION 2. REDISTRICTING. (a) The legislative redistricting  
22 commission shall redistrict the senate and the house of representatives  
23 immediately following the official reporting of each decennial census  
24 of the United States. Redistricting shall be based upon the population  
25 within each legislative district as reported by the census. Each senator  
26 and each representative shall represent, as nearly as may be, an equal  
27 number of people determined by dividing the total population of the state  
28 by twenty and forty, respectively.

29 (b) The commission may redistrict by changing the size and area

1 of the legislative districts, subject to the limitations of this  
2 article. Each new district shall be formed of contiguous and compact  
3 territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated  
4 socio-economic area. Consideration may be given to local government  
5 boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in  
6 describing boundaries wherever possible.

7 SECTION 3. REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. (a) The legislative  
8 redistricting commission consists of seven members who shall be quali-  
9 fied voters in the State but none of whom may be public employees or  
10 officials. The commission members shall be selected as follows:

11 (1) Two members shall be appointed by the chairman of each  
12 of the two political parties whose candidates for governor received the  
13 highest number of votes at the most recent general election preceding  
14 each redistricting at which a governor was elected.

15 (2) The four members selected under (1) of this subsection,  
16 by majority vote, shall appoint the remaining three members of the  
17 commission.

18 (3) In making appointments to the commission, the appointing  
19 authorities shall give due consideration to representation from the  
20 geographic regions of the State.

21 (b) Legislative redistricting commission members shall be compen-  
22 sated in the manner provided by law for other boards and commissions.

23 (c) The commission shall elect one of its members chairman and  
24 may employ a temporary staff. The commission may adopt its own rules  
25 of procedure; however, concurrence of four members is required for a  
26 ruling, determination, or the issuance by proclamation of a redistrict-  
27 ing plan, and a lesser number of commission members may conduct  
28 hearings.

29 SECTION 4. REDISTRICTING PLAN. (a) Within one hundred twenty days

1 following the official reporting of each decennial census, the commis-  
2 sion shall issue a proclamation for redistricting the legislature as  
3 provided in this article. The plan shall be filed with the lieutenant  
4 governor and published as prescribed by law, in the same manner as a  
5 proclamation issued by the governor. An accompanying statement shall  
6 explain the redistricting plan. The redistricting shall be effective  
7 for the election of members of the legislature until after the official  
8 reporting of the next decennial census.

9 (b) If the commission fails to issue a proclamation redistricting  
10 the legislature within the period of time specified in (a) of this  
11 section, the supreme court shall redistrict the legislature in accor-  
12 dance with the provisions of this article.

13 SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT; JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) A qualified voter  
14 may apply to the supreme court to compel the commission to perform its  
15 redistricting duties. An application to compel the commission to per-  
16 form its redistricting duties shall be filed within thirty days of the  
17 expiration of the one hundred twenty day period specified in Section 4(a)  
18 of this article.

19 (b) A qualified voter may apply to the supreme court to review a  
20 redistricting plan issued under this article or to correct an error in  
21 the plan. An application to review the redistricting plan, or to  
22 correct an error in it, shall be filed within thirty days following  
23 the proclamation of the plan.

24 (c) Original jurisdiction in the subject matter of this article  
25 is vested in the supreme court.

26 \* Sec. 2. Article XIV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed.

27 \* Sec. 3. The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed  
28 before the voters of the state at the next statewide election in conformity  
29 with sec. 1, art. XIII, Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the

1 election laws of the state.

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