

Introduced: 1/28/75
Referred: Judiciary and
Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MILLER

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a study of the use of
6 election districts for administrative
7 and judicial purposes.

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

9 WHEREAS, traditionally, the State of Alaska has used election districts
10 for a variety of purposes other than the administration of elections and the
11 constituencies from which members of the legislature are chosen; and

12 WHEREAS some of these uses include, but are not limited to, the
13 formation of the judicial districts, the establishment of the range and
14 step for the basic monthly salary schedule for state employees under the
15 classified and partially exempt state service, liquor license administration,
16 computation and distribution of state aid under the Public School Foundation
17 Program, and for a variety of other public purposes and services wholly
18 unrelated to the electoral process; and

19 WHEREAS because of the legislative redistricting necessitated both by
20 the provisions of the Alaska Constitution requiring decennial rearrangement
21 of election district boundaries to reflect changing population growth
22 patterns as well as a series of recent redistrictings due to protracted
23 litigation, the boundaries of the present election districts no longer con-
24 form to those prescribed in article XIV of the Alaska Constitution or to
25 those promulgated following the Governor's 1961 Proclamation of Reapportion-
26 ment and Redistricting, but to which the administration of many state
27 services and functions refer; and

28 WHEREAS it is clear that this proliferation of one set of election
29 districts one on top of the other causes confusion among the electorate and

1 creates a "crazyquilt" if not obsolete pattern of administration; and

2 WHEREAS it is also reasonably clear that what may make sense in terms
3 of boundaries for an electoral constituency, well may not prove salutary for
4 the administration of justice, or for the administration of other essential
5 state services or functions for which a geographic unit of administration or
6 reference makes good sense;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislative
8 Council is respectfully requested to appoint an interim committee and assign
9 to it for study the subject of the election district boundaries and their
10 continued usefulness for purposes of administration of state services and
11 functions other than elections; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council is respectfully
13 requested to convene, or authorize the convening, of a joint study committee
14 inviting representation from both the executive and judicial branches of
15 state government to join with legislators to resolve this complex, multi-
16 faceted problem to ensure that the public interest in the effective adminis-
17 tration of state affairs is served; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this joint legislative-executive-judicial
19 interim study committee be respectfully requested to report its findings and
20 recommendations to the legislature not later than the convening of the Ninth
21 Alaska Legislature, Second Session.