

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BRADNER AND PARKER

2 ^{CS} HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the
6 * Constitution of the State of Alaska
7 providing for a unicameral legislature.

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 3. ELECTION AND TERMS. Senators [LEGISLATORS] shall be
22 elected at general elections. Their terms begin on the third [FOURTH]
23 Monday of the January following election unless otherwise provided by
24 law. The [TERM OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE TWO YEARS, AND THE] term of
25 senators shall be [,] four years. Thirty-one [ONE-HALF] of the
26 senators shall be elected in the presidential election year and thirty
27 in the gubernatorial election year [EVERY TWO YEARS].

28 SECTION 12. RULES. The [HOUSE OF EACH] legislature shall adopt
29 [UNIFORM] rules of procedure. The legislature [EACH HOUSE] may choose

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

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

17 (b) No vote on final passage of a bill may be taken until five
18 legislative days after its introduction and until at least one legis-
19 lative day after the date publicly announced for it to appear on the
20 daily calendar. However, in case of an emergency, where the immediate
21 passage of a bill is necessary for preservation of public peace, health,
22 or safety, concurrence of two-thirds of the membership may waive this
23 requirement. A statement of the reasons necessitating the waiver shall
24 be set forth in one section of the bill. Concurrence of two-thirds of
25 the membership is necessary for passage of the bill. A bill waiving the
26 five day requirement of this subsection may not create or abolish any
27 office, change the salary, term, or duties of an office, grant a
28 franchise or special privilege, create a vested right or interest, or
29 levy a tax.

1 SECTION 15. VETO. The governor may veto bills passed by the
2 legislature. He may, by veto, strike or reduce items in appropriation
3 bills. He shall return any vetoed bill, with a statement of his
4 objections, to the legislature [HOUSE OF ORIGIN].

5 SECTION 16. ACTION UPON VETO. Upon receipt of a veto message,
6 the legislature shall meet immediately [IN JOINT SESSION] and reconsider
7 passage of the vetoed bill or item. Bills to raise revenue and appro-
8 priation bills or items, although vetoed, become law by affirmative vote
9 of three-fourths of the membership of the legislature. Other vetoed
10 bills become law by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of
11 the legislature. The vote on reconsideration of a vetoed bill shall be
12 entered in [ON] the journal [JOURNALS] of the legislature [BOTH HOUSES].

13 SECTION 18. EFFECTIVE DATE. Laws passed by the legislature become
14 effective ninety days after enactment. The legislature may, by con-
15 currence of two-thirds of the membership [OF EACH HOUSE], provide for
16 another effective date.

17 SECTION 20. IMPEACHMENT. All civil officers of the State are
18 subject to impeachment by the legislature. Impeachment [SHALL ORIGINATE
19 IN THE SENATE AND] must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members.
20 The resolution [MOTION] for impeachment shall list fully the basis for
21 the proceeding. Trial on impeachment shall be conducted by the
22 legislature [HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES]. A supreme court justice
23 designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of
24 two-thirds of the members of the legislature [HOUSE] is required for a
25 judgment of impeachment. The judgment may not extend beyond removal
26 from office, but shall not prevent proceedings in the courts on the
27 same or related charges.

28 * Sec. 2. Art. VI, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed
29 and re-adopted to read:

1 ARTICLE VI. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTING.

2 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS. (a) Members of the legislature
3 shall be elected by the qualified voters in the legislative districts
4 established in the manner provided in this article.

5 (b) Legislative districts shall consist of compact, contiguous
6 territory. Each senator shall represent, as nearly as possible, an
7 equal number of registered voters. The number of persons represented
8 by each senator is determined by dividing the total membership of the
9 legislature into the total number of registered voters in the State.
10 The basis for legislative redistricting shall be the total number of
11 registered voters eligible to vote at the general election following
12 the federal decennial census, or the total number of registered voters
13 eligible to vote at the most recent general election if districting is
14 pursuant to a court order.

15 (c) To the extent the requirements of equality in terms of regis-
16 tered voters permit, each legislative district shall contain, as nearly
17 as practicable, a relatively integrated socio-economic area. In the
18 formation of legislative districts, consideration shall be given to
19 local government boundaries. Whenever possible, drainage basins and
20 other identifiable geographic features shall be used in describing
21 legislative district boundaries.

22 SECTION 2. REDISTRICTING. (a) The governor shall redistrict the
23 legislature in the manner prescribed by this article immediately
24 following the official reporting of the federal decennial census, or
25 immediately following a court order to redistrict.

26 (b) The term of office of a member of the legislature is not
27 affected by a change in the boundaries of the district from which he
28 was elected.

29 SECTION 3. REDISTRICTING ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The governor shall

1 appoint a redistricting board to act in an advisory capacity to him.
2 It shall consist of five members, none of whom may be public employees
3 or officials. At least one member each shall be appointed from the
4 Southeastern, Southcentral, Central, and Western or Northwestern regions
5 of the state. Appointments shall be made without regard to political
6 affiliation. Board members shall be compensated.

7 (b) The board shall elect one of its members chairman and may
8 employ a temporary staff. Concurrence of three members is required for
9 a ruling or determination, but a lesser number may conduct hearings or
10 otherwise act for the board.

11 SECTION 4. REDISTRICTING PLAN; PROCLAMATION. Within ninety days
12 following the official reporting of the federal decennial census, the
13 board shall submit to the governor a plan for redistricting as provided
14 in this article. Within ninety days after receipt of the plan, the
15 governor shall issue a proclamation of redistricting. An accompanying
16 statement shall explain any change from the plan submitted to him by
17 the board. The redistricting shall be effective for the election of
18 members of the legislature until after the official reporting of the
19 next decennial census.

20 SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT; JUDICIAL REVIEW, CORRECTION. A qualified
21 voter may apply to the supreme court to compel the governor to perform
22 his redistricting duties, to review the redistricting plan, or to
23 correct an error in redistricting. Application to compel the governor
24 to perform his redistricting duties must be filed within thirty days
25 of the expiration of either of the two ninety-day period specified in
26 Section 4 of this article. Application to review the redistricting
27 plan or to compel its correction must be filed within thirty days
28 following the proclamation. Original jurisdiction in these matters is
29 vested in the supreme court, and the cause may be reviewed by the

1 supreme court upon the law and the facts.

2 * Sec. 3. Sec. 10, art. II and art. XIV, Constitution of the State of
3 Alaska, are repealed.

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

8 * Sec. 5. If the amendments proposed by this resolution are ratified by
9 a majority of qualified voters voting on the resolution, the following
10 provisions shall be followed in the transition from a bicameral to a
11 unicameral legislature:

12 (1) the holdover members of the senate and those members of the
13 senate and house of representatives elected to the Tenth Alaska Legisla-
14 ture shall sit as a bicameral legislature during the first session, but
15 shall sit as a unicameral legislature consisting of 60 members during
16 the second session;

17 (2) at the first session of the Tenth Alaska Legislature, the
18 legislature shall make the necessary preparation for sitting as a
19 unicameral legislature during the second session;

20 (3) no later than July 1, 1977, the governor shall redistrict
21 the legislature in accordance with art. VI, Constitution of the State of
22 Alaska, as amended by this resolution, to provide for a unicameral
23 legislature consisting of 61 members; the total number of registered
24 voters eligible to vote at the most recent general election shall be
25 the basis for the legislative redistricting;

26 (4) at the 1978 general election, 31 members of the legislature
27 shall be elected to four-year terms, and 20 members shall be elected to
28 two-year terms, set by the governor in the redistricting plan provided
29 for by subsection 3 of this section; the ten members of the senate

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elected to four-year terms in 1976 shall hold over as members of the Eleventh Alaska Legislature until the expiration of their terms in 1980.

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