

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RADER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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

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

9 \* Section 1. Secs. 1, 2, 3, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20, art. II, Constitu-  
10 tion 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 law.  
24 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 gubernatorial election year and thirty  
27 in the presidential election year [EVERY TWO YEARS].

28 SECTION 10. ADJOURNMENT. [NEITHER HOUSE MAY ADJOURN OR RECESS  
29 FOR LONGER THAN THREE DAYS UNLESS THE OTHER CONCURS.] If the legislators

1 [TWO HOUSES] cannot agree on the time of adjournment and certify  
2 [EITHER HOUSE CERTIFIES] the disagreement to the governor, he may  
3 adjourn the legislature.

4 SECTION 12. RULES. The [HOUSES OF EACH] legislature shall adopt  
5 [UNIFORM] rules of procedure. The legislature [EACH HOUSE] may choose  
6 its officers and employees. The legislature [EACH] is the judge of the  
7 election and qualifications of its members and may expel a member with  
8 the concurrence of two-thirds of its members. The legislature [EACH]  
9 shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the membership  
10 of the legislature [EACH HOUSE] constitutes a quorum to do business,  
11 but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel attend-  
12 ance of absent members. The legislature shall regulate lobbying.

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

22 (b) No vote on final passage of a bill may be taken until five  
23 legislative days after its introduction and until at least one legisla-  
24 tive day after the date publicly announced for it to appear on the daily  
25 calendar. However, in the case of an urgency bill necessary for the  
26 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, three-  
27 fourths of the membership may dispense with this requirement. A state-  
28 ment of facts constituting the necessity shall be set out in one  
29 section of the bill, and the section and the bill shall be passed

1 separately, each by the concurrence of two-thirds of the membership.  
2 An urgency bill may not create or abolish any office, or change the  
3 salary, term, or duties of an office, or grant a franchise or special  
4 privilege, or create a vested right or interest.

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

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

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

21 SECTION 20. IMPEACHMENT. All civil officers of the State are  
22 subject to impeachment by the legislature. Impeachment [SHALL ORIGINATE  
23 IN THE SENATE AND] must be approved by a majority [TWO-THIRDS] vote of  
24 its members. The resolution [MOTION] for impeachment shall list fully  
25 the basis for the proceedings. Trial on impeachment shall be conducted  
26 by the legislature [HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES]. A supreme court justice  
27 designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of  
28 two-thirds of the members of the legislature [HOUSE] is required for a  
29 judgment of impeachment. The judgment may not extend beyond removal

1 from office, but shall not prevent proceedings in the courts on the  
2 same or related charges.

3 \* Sec. 2. Article VI, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed  
4 and re-adopted to read:

5 ARTICLE VI. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTING.

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

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

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

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

29 SECTION 2. REDISTRICTING. The governor shall redistrict the

1 legislature in the manner prescribed in this article immediately  
2 following the official reporting of a decennial federal census, or  
3 immediately following a court order to redistrict.

4 SECTION 3. REDISTRICTING ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The governor shall  
5 appoint a redistricting board to act in an advisory capacity to him. It  
6 shall consist of five members, none of whom may be public employees or  
7 officials. At least one member each shall be appointed from the South-  
8 eastern, Southcentral, Central, and Western or Northwestern regions of  
9 the State. Appointments shall be made without regard to political  
10 affiliation. Board members shall be compensated.

11 (d) The board shall elect one of its members chairman and may em-  
12 ploy a temporary staff. Concurrence of three members is required for  
13 a ruling or determination, but a lesser number may conduct hearings or  
14 otherwise act for the board.

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

24 SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT; JUDICIAL REVIEW, CORRECTION. A qualified  
25 voter may apply to the supreme court to compel the governor, by mandamus  
26 or otherwise, to perform his redistricting duties, to review the re-  
27 districting plan or to correct an error in redistricting. Application  
28 to compel the governor to perform his redistricting duties must be filed  
29 within thirty days of the expiration of either of the two ninety-day

1 periods specified in section 4 of this article. Application to review  
2 the redistricting plan or to compel its correction must be filed within  
3 thirty days following the proclamation. Original jurisdiction in these  
4 matters is vested in the supreme court, and the cause may be reviewed  
5 by the supreme court upon the law and the facts.

6 \* Sec. 3. Art. XIV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is repealed.

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

11 \* Sec. 5. If the amendments proposed by this resolution are ratified by  
12 a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question:

13 (1) the holdover members of the senate and those members of  
14 the seante and the members of the house of representatives elected to the  
15 Tenth Alaska Legislature shall sit as a bicameral, or two-house, legislature  
16 during the first session, but shall sit as a unicameral, or one-house legis-  
17 lature consisting of 60 members during the second session;

18 (2) not later than July 1, 1977, the governor shall redistrict  
19 the legislature in accordance with article VI, Constitution of the State of  
20 Alaska, as amended by this resoltuion, to provide for a unicameral, or one-  
21 house, legislature consisting of 61 members; the total number of registered  
22 voters eligible to vote at the most recent general election shall be the  
23 basis for the legislative redistricting;

24 (3) at the first session of the Tenth Alaska Legislature,  
25 the legislature shall make the necessary preparation for organizing as a  
26 unicameral legislature during the second session;

27 (4) at the 1978 general election the 61st member of the  
28 legislature together with 30 other members shall be elected to four-year  
29 terms, and 20 members shall be elected to two-year terms, set by the governor

1 in the redistricting plan proclaimed in accordance with art. VI, Constitution  
2 of the State of Alaska, as amended by this resoltuion. Nominations for  
3 membership in the Eleventh Alaska Legislature and the 1978 primary election  
4 shall be conducted in substantially the same manner as provided in AS 15.25.  
5 Ten members of the senate elected to four-year terms in 1976 shall hold over  
6 as members of the Eleventh Alaska Legislature until the expiration of their  
7 terms in 1980.

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

#