

Introduced: 6/20/81  
Referred: Judiciary

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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY METCALFE

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

Proposing amendments to the Uniform  
Rules of the Alaska State Legisla-  
ture.

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

\* Section 1. Rule 1(e) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legis-  
lature is amended to read:

(e) The presiding officer shall announce, not later than the day following election, the appointment of a Committee on Committees consisting of five members including the presiding officer. The presiding officer chairs the Committee on Committees. The committee is responsible for nominating the members of the standing committees as set out in Rule 20, and the member who is to chair each standing committee, to serve for the two-year duration of the legislature. The membership of each committee shall total to an uneven number. Each standing committee shall be composed of a number of members of the majority and minority in the ratio that reflects the majority and minority membership in each house [AND THE MINORITY IS ENTITLED TO AT LEAST ONE SEAT ON EACH STANDING COMMITTEE]. The report of the Committee on Committees is subject to approval by a majority vote of the full membership of the house.

\* Sec. 2. Rule 1 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(f) When the Committee on Committees nominates members to serve on standing committees under (e) of this rule, the committee shall nominate each member to serve on three standing committees, but may not nominate a member who serves on the Finance Committee to serve on any

1 other standing committee.

2 \* Sec. 3. Rule 3(b) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
3 is amended to read:

4 (b) The Rules Committee of each house is responsible for the  
5 selection and direction of the session staff assigned to each chamber  
6 (sergeant-at-arms and their assistants, pages and messengers) and is  
7 the source of approval for hiring the session staff who are assigned to  
8 members, to committees, and to caucuses. Staff positions shall be  
9 allocated to each caucus on the basis of an equal per-member distribu-  
10 tion. Each caucus shall determine the number of staff assigned directly  
11 to members of the caucus and the number of staff who shall be assigned  
12 to committees and to the caucus itself. The Rules Committee shall  
13 determine the number of positions to be allocated by the per-member  
14 formula to each caucus [ASSISTANTS FOR STANDING, SPECIAL, AND JOINT  
15 COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES AND SECRETARIAL HELP TO BE ASSIGNED TO INDIVI-  
16 DUAL MEMBERS]. The Rules Committees of the house and senate shall  
17 decide jointly and within the amount budgeted for session staff the  
18 compensation and conditions of employment of those working under their  
19 individual supervision. The director of administrative services of the  
20 Legislative Affairs Agency shall assist and make recommendations to the  
21 Rules Committees regarding staff compensation and related matters.

22 \* Sec. 4. Rule 12 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
23 is amended to read:

24 RULE 12. USE OF CHAMBERS AND OFFICES. Legislative chambers are  
25 to be used only for the official business of the legislature during  
26 legislative sessions. During the session access to the chambers and  
27 their galleries is under the control of the presiding officer of the  
28 house to which the space is assigned, and the assignment of legislative  
29 offices and use of committee rooms shall be provided for by and be

1 under the control of the Rules Committee. Members shall receive equiv-  
2 alent assignments of office space and equipment.

3 \* Sec. 5. Rule 21(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
4 is amended to read:

5 (a) A special committee is a committee of one house. A special  
6 committee may be established only by the adoption of a simple resolu-  
7 tion. The presiding officer of each house appoints the members of a  
8 special committee and designates a member to chair the special committee  
9 unless otherwise ordered by the house. A member may not serve on more  
10 than one special committee. The persons who chair like committees of  
11 each house may arrange for the committees to meet jointly to receive  
12 testimony and deal with other matters which may be expedited by joint  
13 committee action.

14 \* Sec. 6. Rule 23(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
15 is amended to read:

16 (a) Each standing or special committee shall schedule and announce  
17 the time, location, and agenda of a meeting of the committee at least  
18 five days before the meeting. The scheduling of the time, location,  
19 and agenda of each meeting of the committee must be approved by a  
20 majority of the members of the committee. Written notice of the time,  
21 location, and agenda [PLACE AND SUBJECT MATTER] of all meetings of  
22 standing, special, and joint committees [DURING A WEEK] shall be pro-  
23 vided by the person who chairs the committee to the chief clerk or  
24 secretary [BY 4:00 P.M. ON THE PRECEDING THURSDAY. THE PERSON WHO  
25 CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE TO WHICH A BILL OR RESOLUTION IS FIRST REFERRED  
26 SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CHIEF CLERK OR SECRETARY WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE  
27 TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BILL OR RESOLUTION]  
28 at least five days before the meeting [HEARING. HOWEVER, THIS REQUIRE-  
29 MENT MAY BE WAIVED BY MOTION OF THE PERSON WHO CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE TO

1 WHICH A BILL OR RESOLUTION IS FIRST REFERRED IF CONCURRED IN BY MAJORITY  
2 VOTE OF THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE]. The chief clerk or secretary  
3 shall publish and distribute copies of the [WEEKLY] schedule of commit-  
4 tee meetings and of the [FIVE-DAY] notice of meeting [HEARING].

5 \* Sec. 7. Rule 23(b) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
6 is amended to read:

7 (b) A standing or special committee may amend its schedule of  
8 committee meetings no later than 48 hours before the time set for the  
9 committee meeting. An amendment of the schedule of committee meetings  
10 by a committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the  
11 committee. When the committee decides to defer action on an item that  
12 is under the jurisdiction of the committee, the committee may not take  
13 any action on that item for at least 48 hours. The person who chairs a  
14 standing, special, or joint committee shall provide the chief clerk or  
15 secretary written notice of the change in the time, location, or agenda  
16 [PLACE OR SUBJECT MATTER] of a meeting. At the next daily legislative  
17 session, notice of the schedule change shall be announced by the chief  
18 clerk or secretary and published as a notice in the journal of the  
19 house.

20 \* Sec. 8. Rule 24(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
21 is amended to read:

22 (a) A committee acts on all bills referred to it and reports its  
23 actions and recommendations to the house as soon as practicable. A bill  
24 or resolution may not be reported back by a committee unless the bill  
25 or resolution has been the subject of at least one hearing by the com-  
26 mittee at a meeting of the committee that was held in conformity with  
27 the requirements for notice of meetings set out in Rule 23. Committee  
28 reports must be in writing and the report must be signed by a majority  
29 of the members of the committee. The report will note the recommenda-

1 tion of each member signing the report.

2 \* Sec. 9. Rule 42(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
3 is amended to read:

4 (a) If one house refuses to concur in the amendments of the other  
5 it so notifies the amending house and requests that it recede from its  
6 amendments. The vote on receding from amendments is taken by the  
7 calling of the roll and the recording of the yeas and nays in the  
8 journal. A house recedes from its amendments only by a majority vote  
9 of the full membership of the house. If the house refuses to recede,  
10 the presiding officer of each house appoints three members to sit as a  
11 Conference Committee. When appointing members to a Conference Commit-  
12 tee, the presiding officer may not appoint a member to serve on two  
13 committees simultaneously, may not appoint a member to serve the  
14 member's third assignment to a Conference Committee until all members  
15 have been appointed to at least one Conference Committee assignment,  
16 and may not appoint a member to subsequent service on a Conference  
17 Committee until all members have been appointed to at least two Con-  
18 ference Committee assignments. The committee meets when mutually  
19 agreeable to its members. If the committee reaches agreement on pre-  
20 viously adopted amendments to a bill adopted by either house, the  
21 committee then submits an identical report to each house. The report  
22 is not subject to amendment in either house. If the report is adopted  
23 by each house, the bill is enrolled, signed, and transmitted to the  
24 governor. If the members of the Conference Committee cannot agree on  
25 amendments, or if one or both houses refuses to adopt the committee  
26 report, the Conference Committee submits an identical written report to  
27 each house listing the specific points of disagreement for which the  
28 committee requests powers of free conference. The presiding officer of  
29 each house may then give limited powers of free conference only on the

1 specific points listed. If the members of a Conference Committee with  
2 limited powers of free conference cannot agree on amendments, or one or  
3 both houses refuses to adopt the committee report, it is then in order  
4 to appoint a Free Conference Committee. A member who served on a  
5 Conference Committee or a Conference Committee with limited powers of  
6 free conference may not be appointed to a subsequent Conference Commit-  
7 tee or Free Conference Committee concerning the same measure. The vote  
8 on adoption of a conference committee report is taken by the calling of  
9 the roll and the recording of the yeas and nays in the journal. Adop-  
10 tion requires a majority vote of the full membership of each house.

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