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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MILLER AND BEIRNE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the United States Congress
6 and the executive branch of the
7 United States Government to initiate
8 studies to provide proposals to
9 alleviate the effect of time zones
10 on presidential elections.

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

12 WHEREAS there are seven different time zones within the boundaries of
13 the 50 states of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS on the day of a presidential election the polls close on the
15 east coast of the United States three hours before the polls on the west
16 coast and six hours before the polls in western Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS this variety of time zones has the capacity to seriously affect
18 the outcome of a presidential election; and

19 WHEREAS news coverage and projections of winners in eastern locations
20 can substantially affect the voting decisions of voters in midwestern and
21 western states; and

22 WHEREAS the unhealthy political situation created by this time zone
23 situation is nonpartisan in nature and represents a threat to the entire
24 election process; and

25 WHEREAS numerous proposals exist for rectifying the situation, includ-
26 ing staggered voting hours under which all or most regions of the nation
27 would vote at the same time;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of Alaska
29 respectfully requests the United States Congress and the executive branch of

1 the United States Government to initiate studies for proposals to alleviate
2 the effect of time zones on the outcome of presidential elections.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
4 President of the United States; and to all members of the United States
5 Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

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