

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RODEY AND KERTTULA

2

SENATE BILL NO. 3

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to meetings held by the legislature  
7 or a committee of the legislature."

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

9 \* Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the  
10 public is not excluded during the substantive deliberative and decision-  
11 making stages of the budgetary and lawmaking process.

12 \* Sec. 2. AS 24.60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 Sec. 24.60.065. OPEN MEETINGS VIOLATION. A violation of AS 44.-  
14 62.311(a) or (b) is also a violation of this chapter.

15 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.62 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 Sec. 44.62.311. MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ITS COMMITTEES.

17 (a) Unless the legislature or a committee of the legislature is  
18 meeting in executive session authorized under AS 44.62.310(b), the  
19 discussions and debates of each house of the legislature and its  
20 committees shall be open to the public.

21 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, private substan-  
22 tive discussion and debate on legislation under its jurisdiction by a  
23 quorum of a house of the legislature or a committee is prohibited.

24 (c) Caucuses of the legislature may meet in private to consider  
25 matters of procedure, organization, or strategy.

26 (d) An interested person may commence an action for mandamus,  
27 injunction, or declaratory relief for the purpose of stopping or  
28 preventing a violation or threatened violation of (a) or (b) of this  
29 section, or to determine the applicability of this section to an

1           action or threatened future action of the legislature.

2           (e) A court may not prescribe rules or procedures for the con-  
3           duct of legislative business or invalidate legislation enacted by the  
4           legislature because of a violation of this section or AS 44.62.310.

5           (f) A court may impose a civil fine not in excess of \$500 upon a  
6           member of the legislature for a wilful violation of this section or  
7           AS 44.62.310.

8           (g) A violation of (a) or (b) of this section is also a viola-  
9           tion of AS 24.60.