

HOUSE BILL NO. 546

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE CONSTITUTIONAL
REVISION TASK FORCE**

**Introduced: 4/22/94
Referred: Judiciary**

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the Commission on the Constitution."

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.** The legislature finds there is a need to
4 improve and expand procedures for introduction and consideration of proposed amendments
5 to the state constitution. There should be substantially increased opportunities for citizen
6 involvement in these procedures. To accomplish these goals, there should be created a citizen
7 commission on the constitution to make continuing studies of the needs, from time to time,
8 for constitutional change, and to provide the legislature with carefully considered
9 recommendations for such proposals.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 24.08.060(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) Bills introduced by the legislative council shall be delivered with a letter
12 of explanation to the rules committee of either house and bear the inscription "Rules
13 Committee by Request of the Legislative Council"; bills introduced by the
14 Administrative Regulation Review Committee shall be delivered with a letter of

1 explanation to the rules committee of either house and bear the inscription "Rules
2 Committee by Request of the Administrative Regulation Review Committee"; bills
3 introduced by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee shall be delivered with a
4 letter of explanation to the rules committee of either house and bear the inscription
5 "Rules Committee by Request of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee." Joint
6 resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution offered by the
7 Commission on the Constitution shall be delivered with a letter of explanation to
8 the rules committee of either house during a first regular session or during the
9 first 30 days of a second regular session and bear the inscription "Rules
10 Committee by Request of the Commission on the Constitution." Bills presented
11 by the governor shall be delivered with a letter to the rules committee of either house
12 and bear the inscription "Rules Committee by Request of the Governor"; bills so
13 presented and inscribed shall be received as bills carrying the approval of the governor
14 as to policy and budget impact. The governor may submit a statement of purpose and
15 effect with each bill and appear personally or through a representative before any
16 committee considering legislation.

17 * Sec. 3. AS 24.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

18 ARTICLE 5. COMMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTION.

19 Sec. 24.20.650. COMMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTION. (a) A
20 Commission on the Constitution is established in the legislative branch. The
21 commission consists of seven members, with at least one member from each judicial
22 district. No more than three commission members may be registered members of the
23 same political party. An elected state official, a sitting justice, or a sitting judge may
24 not serve on the commission. A commission member serves a six-year term and may
25 be reappointed. A commission member may be removed from office only for cause
26 and only upon the affirmative vote of at least five members of the Commission on the
27 Constitution.

28 (b) Members of the Commission on the Constitution are appointed by a
29 selection committee consisting of one member appointed by the governor, one member
30 appointed by the presiding officer of the senate, one member appointed by the
31 presiding officer of the house of representatives, one member appointed by the chief

1 justice of the supreme court, and one member appointed by the other four members
2 of the selection committee. An elected state official, a sitting justice, or a sitting judge
3 may not serve on the selection committee. A member of the selection committee
4 serves a two-year term and may be reappointed. A vacancy is filled by the appointing
5 authority for the unexpired portion of the term. A person may be appointed to the
6 Commission on the Constitution only upon the approval of at least four members of
7 the selection committee. A vacancy on the commission is filled by the selection
8 committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

9 Sec. 24.20.660. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. The
10 Commission on the Constitution may consider any proposed amendment to the state
11 constitution. During a first regular session and during the first 30 days of a second
12 regular session, the commission may, through the rules committees, introduce one or
13 more joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution.

14 * Sec. 4. Notwithstanding AS 24.20.650(a), as enacted in sec. 2 of this Act, as designated
15 by the selection committee, one member of the first Commission on the Constitution shall be
16 appointed to a three-year term, two members shall be appointed to four-year terms, two
17 members shall be appointed to five-year terms, and two members shall be appointed to six-
18 year terms.