

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIPS

Introduced: 3/26/93
Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing a House Constitutional Revision Task Force to consider and**
2 **recommend alternative methods by which the state constitution may be revised.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** the constitution of a state is of vital importance in expressing the
5 collective agreement of a society as to how the state will conduct its affairs; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Constitution was adopted 37 years ago and, developed as it was
7 following an examination and analysis of the other state constitutions as they then read, the
8 document was acknowledged at the time as a model state constitution; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska is a young state, with rapidly changing economic, social,
10 communication, and political factors; and

11 **WHEREAS** the state's population has at least doubled since the 1955 - 1956
12 Constitutional Convention; and

13 **WHEREAS** the state constitution provides for two means of amendment, a decennial
14 vote on convening another constitutional convention and use of resolutions approved by the
15 legislature placing specific amendments on the ballot; and

16 **WHEREAS** neither method of revising the state constitution lends itself to adequate

1 citizen involvement in any contemplated changes to the state constitution; and

2 **WHEREAS** rapid changes in the state's population, vastly improved statewide
3 communications, and an interest and desire on the part of many of the state's citizens to have
4 a meaningful role in controlling their own destinies have led to calls for finding other ways
5 of preparing, presenting, and ratifying changes to the constitution that would allow greater
6 public participation in the process; and

7 **WHEREAS** an exploration of possible alternatives to the two existing methods of
8 amending the state constitution would be beneficial to the legislature and to the people of the
9 state.

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives establishes a five-member
11 House Constitutional Revision Task Force to consider and recommend alternative methods by
12 which the Alaska Constitution may be revised; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
14 appoint three members of the House of Representatives and two public members to the House
15 Constitutional Revision Task Force, and shall designate one of the members appointed to chair
16 the task force; the members shall be chosen in an effort to give the task force a membership
17 that has the broadest backgrounds, experience, and perspectives possible; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force shall
19 study alternative methods by which the state constitution may be revised, receive comments
20 from the public about proposed alternative methods, and prepare and present to the House of
21 Representatives its recommendations for alternative methods for revising the state constitution;
22 and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the expenses of the House Constitutional Revision Task
24 Force be paid from money otherwise appropriated for the work of the Alaska State
25 Legislature; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force is
27 authorized to meet between and during the sessions of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature,
28 and may hold public hearings and obtain information; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force shall
30 prepare and submit to the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature
31 a preliminary report of its recommendations no later than February 1, 1994, and shall prepare
32 and submit a final report of its recommendations no later than April 1, 1994; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Constitutional Revision Task Force is
2 terminated on the date of convening of the First Session of the Nineteenth Alaska State
3 Legislature.