

SJR

57

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 11, 1982

The Honorable Jalmar Kerttula
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. President:

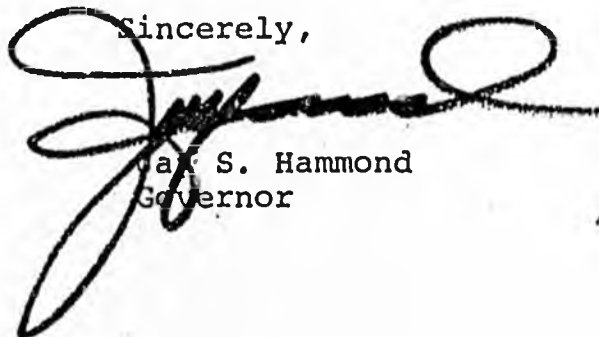
Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Alaska Constitution which would limit the length of legislative sessions.

Regular sessions will be limited to 90 days, but they could be extended in increments of up to 15 consecutive calendar days. This could be done by the governor, or by a majority of each house of the legislature with the approval of the governor. The resolution also provides for limiting the subjects that would be covered in an extension of a regular session and provides a means for extending that list of subjects.

As many of you know, I have long advocated a constitutional limitation on legislative session length. In my 12 years of legislative service, there was only one session which warranted more than 90 days. That was the first session upon achieving statehood, during which we set up the entire state government -- and we did that in only 84 days.

Although there has been a substantial increase in the size of legislative staff and the amount of interim committee activity, the length of legislative sessions has not been reduced. With the current sound condition of the state's finances, there is little incentive for early adjournment. However, the advisory vote taken at the general election in 1978 demonstrated the public's overwhelming support for a session limitation. I strongly urge your early approval of this measure.

Sincerely,



Jack S. Hammond
Governor