

SJR

6

SYNOPSIS OF TESTIMONY ON SJR 6 - "PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA RELATING TO SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE." An all-sites teleconference and hearing held on 11/17/81

SOURCE	LENGTH OF SESSION	PROVISIONS FOR EXTENSION # of days	vote required	REMARKS
Sen. Tim Kelly	120 days	no extension		Rather than extensions, can, if needed, have special sessions limited to subjects included in call
Gov. Jay Hammond	90 days	15 days	concurrence of governor and leaders of both houses within 3 days of the end of regular session for not more than 15 days	Also, provide for less than current 15 day delay before special session can meet
Bill Miles	120 days	10 days (can be renewed)	majority of both houses	
Mark Beltz	90 days	no position		
Nels Anderson	120 days	10 days	2/3 vote of each house	Also, all special sessions limited to 5 days
Joe Graham	90 days	no position	3/4 vote	Also, no per diem until both houses organized or after session limit
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce	90 days	2-10 days	2/3 vote	
FREE Committee	120 days	see Remarks	2/3 vote	Vote on extension should specify number of days and subjects
Common Sense for Alaska	120 days	no position		
Soroptomists International of Anchorage	90 days	see Remarks	2/3 vote of each house	Vote on extension should specify number of days and subjects
Bradley Shaffer	90 days		3/4 vote	Length of special sessions should be limited

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Committee Minutes
Senate State Affairs Committee

Anchorage, Alaska
11-17-81, 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Sen. Fischer, Chair
Sen. Eliason
Sen. Stimson

Other legislators: Sen. Kelly

Hearing: All sites teleconference and hearing on limiting the length of legislative sessions

Committee Calendar: SJR 6, "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to sessions of the legislature."

Witnesses:

Anchorage:

Sen. Tim Kelly, sponsor of SJR 6
Pouch V, Juneau, Alaska 99811

Bill Miles, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

Mark Albert Beltz, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

Joe Graham, representing self
Spenard area, Anchorage

Jan Faiks, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
612 F Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Jan Bomhoff, Anchorage Women's Club FREE Committee
P. O. Box 4-2955, Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Neely Taylor, Common Sense for Alaska
P. O. Box 4-1104, Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Mary Bargaran, Soroptomists Int'l of Anchorage
P. O. Box 561, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Juneau: Keith Specking, Office of the Governor
Pouch A, Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dillingham: Nels Anderson, representing self
General Delivery, Dillingham, Alaska

Proceedings:

Sen. Fischer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to discuss limiting the length of

legislative sessions. There is presently no constitutional limit imposed on the length of legislative sessions; the drafters of the constitution sought to establish a proper balance between the legislative branch and the strong executive power. Sen. Fischer outlined aspects of the session limitation question the committee hoped to hear addressed by testimony:

- should a constitutional limit be established or not? Why?
- if a limit is established, what should regular session length be: 90, 100, 120 days, or what other period?
- should provision be made for extending a regular session? If so, by simple majority or by two-thirds vote of the legislature: In increments of 10 or 30 days or some other period?
- what other things should the legislature consider in acting on the issue?

Sen. Tim Kelly, sponsor of SJR 6, was the first to testify. He thanked the committee for holding hearings on the issue, which had been "dear to my heart since election in 1976". Sen. Kelly stated that the legislature should be encouraging more Alaskans to participate in the legislative process. Their participation might be promoted by a session length which would permit them to pursue non-legislative business for the greater part of the year. SJR 6 proposes a 120 day limit in the form of a constitutional amendment to be put before the voters at the next general election. Sen. Kelly stated that he would also like to see all special sessions called by the legislature limited to subjects included in the call. The subject limit should apply to any extensions of the regular session; if extending the session were to become a regular practice, a subject limit would focus attention of the legislature on the critical issues.

Sen. Eliason stated his agreement with Sen. Kelly's testimony.

Keith Specking, from the Office of the Governor, presented Governor Hammond's statement on session limitation. Governor Hammond's statement began, "In my twelve years of legislative service, there was only one session which warranted more than 90 days. That was the first session during which we set up the entire state government--and we did that in but 84." The inadequate pay and the necessity to conclude the work expeditiously in order to return to the private sector at first insured relatively brief sessions. Various factors, including increased pay, benefits, staff and workload, and recent "ephemeral funding 'surpluses'" have contributed to the extension of legislative sessions. The statement from Gov. Hammond indicated that any limitation on session length should: 1.) provide ample time to complete work on crucial matters; 2.) serve to reduce the legislative "logrolling" normally required to bring sessions to close; and 3.) provide for less than the current undue 15 day delay before a session could be extended, as is the case now with special sessions. Gov. Hammond proposed a constitutional limitation on session length some years ago and intends to reintroduce it this year for consideration by the legislature. His

proposal establishes a session "target" of 90 days. An extension provision specifies that with the concurrence of the governor and leaders of both houses the legislature might reconvene within 3 days of the regular session's conclusion for no more than 15 days. Subjects to be considered would be confined to a list of specific measures approved by the governor and a majority of each house. Gov. Hammond concluded his statement with the reference to a public advisory vote which demonstrated the public's support for a session limitation. "Those who disagree with the concept should argue their case to the public, not deny the public the right to set the terms and conditions imposed upon the public's servants. To do otherwise constitutes public servicing." This concluded presentation of the Governor's statement by Keith Spacking, Legislative Assistant to the Governor.

Bill Miles, representing himself as a private citizen, provided a brief history of his involvement in the issue. He mentioned his experience as a member of the House of Representatives (concluded in 1980); at the outset he did not support a limit, but after his experience as a legislator he supported it. Legislation calling for a limitation on session length passed the House, but not the Senate, during the time Bill Miles served in the legislature. A limit is necessary, Bill Miles stated. He feels that people work better when they have goals, and he cited examples of the many professionals for whom goals and deadlines are an integral part of the work world: judges, newspeople, and Congress members to name a few. He stated support for a 120-day limit, and thinks 90 days is inadequate time for the complex work with which 60 laypersons in a new environment must deal. By way of extension provisions, Bill suggested that either a) arrangements for an immediate special session or b) provide for extensions (10 day renewal period).

Sen. Fischer stated that a referendum approved by the people by a 3 to 1 margin provided for extension by simple majority vote of the legislature. He asked Bill Miles whether he favored extension by simple majority vote or by 2/3 vote of both houses. Bill Miles responded that he favored extension by simple majority. Sen. Fischer inquired whether such an extension should require the concurrence of the governor. Bill responded that the legislature should determine it, that the decision should not be made solely by leadership, and should go to the floor for a vote.

Sen. Kelly stated that the number of days in the session per se was not important; that 90 day limits end up with extension arrangements. He prefers the concept of a straight 120 day limit. He pointed out that when the governor calls a special session he must wait 15 days after the conclusion of the regular session to do so. When the legislature calls itself into session there is no wait period.

Sen. Eliason asked of Bill Miles whether he favored calling special session by simple majority. Bill Miles affirmed that he did. Sen. Eliason suggested that if a special session were allowed to be called by simple majority that it would result in the same problems the legislature faces now with lengthy sessions.

Sen. Fischer discussed Bill Egan's position; former Governor Egan favors a 120 day limit. During the last 20 days of a session bills may be forwarded. Bill Miles pointed out that one doesn't always know when the session will end, so it is difficult to determine when the last 20 days would be, and a special mechanism would have to be set up if Gov. Egan's system were to function.

Mark Albert Beltz, testifying as a private citizen, stated that he favors a shorter session, preferably with a 90 day limit, and that he felt the legislators should work longer hours. He also stated that he felt the session should start not on the 4th Monday of January, as provided in SJR 6, but on the second Monday, as is traditional. Sen. Kelly pointed out that this is covered by existing law. Sen. Fischer clarified this further by stating that the constitution leaves it open to change by law, an option which has been exercised. Current law provides for the session to begin on the second Monday. Sen. Fischer also made reference to Mark Albert Beltz's remark that the legislators waste alot of time, stating that the legislators currently work seven days a week, for long hours, and that delays are not due to wasting time and lack of work on the part of legislators.

Nels Anderson, former state representative and majority leader, testified from Dillingham as a private citizen. He complimented Sen. Kelly on his persistence in continuing a drive to get a limit on the sessions. Nels Anderson stated that he once opposed a session limit, and that he now favors a constitutional amendment limiting the session. He suggested a session of no less than 120 days with some provision for extension in 10 day increments by a 2/3 majority vote of each house. He pointed out that there is a tendency near the end (of the session) for things to pile up; "when adjournment fever hits it is hard to follow the movement of bills through committee". Nels Anderson stated that special sessions should be limited to five days whether they are called by the governor or by the legislature.

Joe Graham, resident of the Spenard area of Anchorage, supports a 90 day limit. He feels that a deadline would serve to get things in motion on the important issues. He prefers extension by a 3/4 vote, and suggested the insertion of a clause providing that there be no per diem until both houses were organized and that there be no per diem after the session limit deadline.

Jan Faiks, representing the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, testified in support of a 90 day session, with a required 2/3 vote for a maximum of two 10-day extensions. The Chamber of Commerce has been polling gatherings of members and guests. Their Dec. 7 poll will ask members about session limit provisions. Jan Faiks stated that in some other states immediately following the election the legislators are paid for 10 days for organization prior to Christmas holidays. In Wyoming, she stated, budget work is conducted prior to convening.

Sen. Fischer inquired whether this meant if we limited per diem only no constitutional amendment would be required to limit the length of legislative sessions. Jan Faiks responded, "Something like that!" Sen.

Fischer mentioned that he introduced legislation last year providing for the earlier organization of the legislature. Jan stated that her personal view is in favor of earlier organization with per diem. She feels that people would be happy with a limit, not necessarily a specific number of days.

Sen. Eliason reiterated his support for "sudden death without extensions". Sen. Kelly stated that a 90 day limit is, in effect, a 110 day session as people know an extension is available, and that he would be happy with any limit. Sen. Fischer mentioned that any imposition or limitation on legislative action is regarded as strengthening the hand of the governor. Jan Faiks, speaking on her own behalf, noted that the legislature's power is, in part, their holding of the purse strings. She favors a 2/3 majority vote for an extension.

Jan Bomhoff, representing the Anchorage Women's Club FREE Committee, went on record as supporting a 120 day limit, and a 2/3 vote for any extension. Extension provisions should specify the number of days in the extension and the subject matter to be discussed. Jan Bomhoff stated that a shorter session would promote citizen involvement, topics of broader interest (rather than the proliferation of smaller issues), and better accomplishment of the work. She suggested legislators limit their own per diem this session prior to enacting a constitutional amendment. In response to Sen. Eliason's question, "Should the legislature be subject to the governor in making an extension?" Jan Bomhoff responded "No".

Neely Taylor, representing the Board of Common Sense for Alaska, stated the board's support for a 90 day limit. There was no formal position stated on extension provisions. Neely Taylor stated his personal views on why there is a need for a limit: to promote a citizen legislature and more citizen involvement in the process. The public loses interest during a long session, and the expense involved is great. (Mark Albert Beltz had previously stated the cost to run about \$20,000 per day.) Neely stated that a shorter session would result in limiting "political brinkmanship" which he defined as a form of political game-playing. The legislature should serve as a model of a trim economical organization. Alaska should be the 34th state to have a limit. Sen. Fischer stated that some people feel that a session limit will promote political brinkmanship. Neely responded that legislators will be more interested in getting their bills moving if a session limit is imposed.

Nels Anderson inquired about the rationale for choosing the 4th Monday of the month for session to convene. Sen. Kelly clarified this language as he had for Mark Albert Beltz, and said that the language should probably be changed to avoid further confusion. In response to Nels Anderson's question, "Do you have any objection to limitation on special sessions?" Sen. Kelly stated "There is no problem for me in a five day limit."

The meeting adjourned at 10:45, there being no further testimony at that time, and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Mary Bargaran, representing the Soroptomists International of Anchorage,

presented a letter provided by that group. The Soroptomists supports and urges adoption by the legislature of a legislative session of "the shortest duration possible" and in no event longer than 120 days (preferably 90 days). Any extension beyond 120 days (preferably 90 days) should require a 2/3 vote of both houses and include a "limited call" provision. The extension itself should be for a specific number of days. The letter was signed by Marsha Holloman, President of the group. Mary Bargaran suggested that an extension should be for a maximum of six to ten days.

Sen. Stimson inquired of Mary what the advantage to the state would be of such a limit. Mary Bargaran stated that it was "an economical thing" and that 90 days should be sufficient time for the business to be conducted.

Sen. Stimson said that while he did see a need for a goal, a short session was to the advantage of lobbyists, most of whom are in Juneau to stop legislation. He asked if there were any advantage other than economics. Mary responded that it would be an overall saving to the state. Sen. Stimson asked if the idea of a special session bothered her, to which she responded, "No". Sen. Stimson described the logjam of bills near the end of the session. A limit, he said, would force legislators to break the logjam of bills in Finance Committee, for example. He would like to see each bill accompanied by a statement of purpose.

There being no further testimony, with the exception of informal dialogue between a Sitka observer and Senators Stimson and Fischer, the hearing/teleconference was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Alaska State Legislature

Senate Committee on State Affairs

Vic Fischer, Chairman • Pouch V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4954

Interim office: 511 West 4th Ave., Suite 5,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 phone: 278-3654

Official Business

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Legislators

FROM: Sen. Vic Fischer 

DATE: Nov. 6, 1981

RE: Limiting length of legislative sessions

The Senate State Affairs Committee is holding a statewide teleconference/public hearing November 17 to consider amending Alaska's constitution to limit session length. Before the committee is Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, which would require adjournment no later than 120 days after a regular session begins. Alternatives are also under consideration.

This year's 165 day session is providing a major impetus to efforts to limit session length. Although I had long been opposed to a constitutional limit on philosophical and theoretical grounds, my own experience in the Senate during the past session has convinced me that establishing a constitutional limit is the only practical way we can bring the legislative session to an end without an awful waste of time, money and energy, to say nothing of taxing the public's patience.

We would appreciate your giving us your comments on the various aspects of the session limitation question:

--should a constitutional limit be established or not?
Why?

--if a limit is established, what should regular session length be: 90, 100, 120 days, or what other period?

--should provision be made for extending a regular session? If so, by simple majority or by two-thirds vote of the legislature? In increments of 10 or 30 days or some other period?

--what other things should the legislature consider
in acting on the issue?

The hearing will be Tuesday, November 17, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. (AST) at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office, 1024 West Sixth Avenue. A statewide teleconference hookup will provide access from communities throughout Alaska.

Your contribution to this hearing will be greatly appreciated. You can provide testimony in person or by written statement.

If you wish to testify orally in Anchorage or elsewhere, please call my office (278-3654) and tell us what time would be most convenient for you. We will try to schedule you accordingly. Should you so prefer, you may without prior arrangement come to the hearing in Anchorage or speak from one of the other communities.

We will also receive written testimony. Any statements received in time will be read during the hearing for everyone's information, unless the writer prefers we not do so.

I do hope you will provide us with oral or written testimony on the session limit issue.

Senator Fischer, Chairman
State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Fischer:

I suggest a simple constitutional amendment:

"Within 10 days after the end of the legislative session, each legislator shall schedule, thoroughly advertise & hold a public meeting with constituents in a centrally accessible location to explain & defend actions taken during the session."

The time allowed should be short to maximize accountability. If all Anchorage legislators, ^(for instance) or any group of them, wanted to hold a joint meeting, that might be appropriate & would not be ruled out. Legislators with overlapping constituencies should not have simultaneous meetings, unless it's all one meeting.

I arrived at
524 B Mumford
99504 277-1931
Rick Wicks
Good luck!
Sorry I missed the teleconference.
What do you think?
11:35 & can't be here this evening.

LEGISLATIVE RULES STUDY

Prepared by: Common Sense for Alaska Research Committee

STATE	CONFERENCE COMMITTEES	FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES	BILL CONTENT RULE	"GERMANE" DEFINITION	PUBLIC NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS USED TO PASS BILL OUT OF CMT	INTERIM COMMITTEES AUTHORIZATION	LIMITATION ON SESSION LENGTH	CODE OF ETHICS & DISCIPLINE	CONTRACTING PROCEDURES	LOBBYING LAWS	RULES REVIEW & ENFORCEMENT	LIMIT ON BILLS INTRODUCED	TIME LIMIT FOR CMT TO PROCESS BILL	RULE WAIVER PROCEDURES	LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT
ALABAMA.....	YES 1(1)	NO	YES 3(1)	NO	NO 5(1)	YES 6(1)	YES 7(1)	YES 8(1)	YES 9(1)	YES 10(1)	NO 11(1)	YES 12(1)	YES 13(1)	YES 14(1)	YES 15(1)	YES 16(1)	NO 17(1)
ALASKA.....	YES 1(2)	YES 2(2)	YES 3(2)	YES 4(2)	NO 5(2)	YES 6(2)	YES 7(2)	YES 8(2)	NO	NO	NO	YES 12(2)	NO	NO 14(2)	NO	YES 16(a)	NO
ARIZONA.....	YES 1(3)	YES 2(3)	YES 3(3)	YES 4(3)	YES 5(3)	YES 6(3)	YES 7(3)	YES 8(3)	NO	YES 10(3)	NO	YES 12(3)	YES 13(3)	YES 14(3)	YES 15(3)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(3)
ARKANSAS.....	YES 1(4)	NO	YES 3(a)	NO 4(4)	YES 5(4)	YES 6(4)	YES 7(4)	YES 8(4)	YES 9(4)	NO	YES 11(4)	YES 12(4)	YES 13(4)	YES 14(4)	YES 15(4)	YES 16(b)	NO 17(4)
CALIFORNIA.....	YES 1(5)	YES 2(5)	YES 3(5)	YES 4(5)	YES 5(5)	YES 6(5)	YES 7(5)	YES 8(5)	NO	YES 10(5)	YES 11(5)	YES 12(5)	YES 13(5)	NO	YES 15(5)	YES 16(5)	NO
COLORADO.....	YES	YES 2(6)	YES 3(6)	NO	YES 5(6)	YES 6(6)	YES 7(6)	YES 8(6)	NO	NO 10(6)	YES 11(6)	YES 12(6)	YES 13(6)	NO	YES 15(6)	YES 16(6)	YES 17(6)
CONNECTICUT.....	YES 1(7)	NO	NO 3(7)	YES 4(7)	YES 5(7)	YES 6(7)	YES 7(7)	YES 8(7)	YES 9(7)	YES 10(7)	YES 11(7)	YES 12(7)	NO	YES 14(7)	YES 15(7)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(7)
DELAWARE.....	NO 1(8)	NO	YES 3(8)	NO	YES 5(8)	YES 6(8)	YES 7(8)	NO	YES 9(8)	YES 10(8)	YES 11(8)	YES 12(8)	NO	YES 14(8)	YES 15(8)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(8)
FLORIDA.....	YES 1(9)	NO	YES 3(9)	YES 4(9)	YES 5(9)	YES 6(9)	YES 7(9)	YES 8(9)	YES 9(9)	YES 10(9)	NO	YES 12(9)	YES 13(9)	YES 14(9)	YES 15(9)	YES 16(a)	YES 17(9)
GEORGIA.....	YES 1(10)	NO	YES 3(10)	NO 4(10)	YES 5(10)	NO	YES 7(10)	YES 8(10)	YES 9(10)	YES 10(10)	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES 15(10)	YES 16(b)	NO
HAWAII.....	YES 1(11)	NO	YES 3(11)	NO	YES 5(11)	YES 6(11)	YES 7(11)	YES 8(11)	YES 9(11)	YES 10(11)	NO 11(11)	YES 13(11)	YES 13(11)	YES 14(11)	YES 15(11)	YES 16(11)	YES 17(11)
IDAHO.....	YES 1(12)	NO	YES 3(12)	YES 4(12)	NO 5(12)	YES 6(12)	YES 7(12)	YES 8(12)	YES 9(12)	NO	NO	YES 12(12)	NO	NO	NO	YES 16(12)	YES 17(12)
ILLINOIS.....	YES 1(13)	NO 2(13)	YES 3(13)	YES 4(13)	YES 5(13)	YES 6(13)	YES 7(13)	YES 8(13)	NO	YES 10(13)	NO 11(13)	YES 12(13)	NO	YES 14(13)	YES 15(13)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(13)
INDIANA.....	YES 1(14)	NO	YES 3(14)	YES 4(14)	YES 5(14)	YES 6(14)	YES 7(14)	YES 8(14)	YES 9(14)	YES 10(14)	NO 11(14)	YES 12(14)	YES 13(14)	YES 14(14)	NO 15(14)	YES 16(14)	YES 17(14)
IOWA.....	YES 1(15)	YES 2(15)	YES 3(15)	YES 4(15)	YES 5(15)	YES 6(15)	YES 7(15)	YES 8(15)	NO	YES 10(15)	NO 11(15)	YES 12(15)	YES 13(15)	YES 14(15)	YES 15(15)	YES 16(15)	YES 17(15)
KANSAS.....	YES 1(16)	NO	YES 3(16)	NO 4(16)	NO 5(16)	YES 6(16)	YES 7(16)	YES 8(16)	YES 9(16)	YES 10(16)	YES 11(16)	YES 12(16)	YES 13(16)	YES 14(16)	YES 15(16)	YES 16(16)	YES 17(16)
KENTUCKY.....	YES 1(17)	YES 2(17)	YES 3(17)	YES 4(17)	YES 5(17)	YES 6(17)	YES 7(17)	YES 8(17)	YES 9(17)	YES 10(17)	YES 11(17)	YES 12(17)	NO	YES 14(17)	NO 15(17)	YES 16(17)	YES 17(17)
LOUISIANA.....	YES 1(18)	NO	YES 3(a)	YES 4(18)	YES 5(18)	YES 6(18)	YES 7(18)	YES 8(18)	YES 9(18)	YES 10(18)	NO 11(18)	YES 12(18)	YES 13(18)	YES 14(18)	YES 15(18)	YES 16(18)	YES 17(18)
MAINE.....	YES 1(19)	NO	NO 3(19)	YES 4(19)	YES 5(19)	YES 6(19)	YES 7(19)	YES 8(19)	YES 9(19)	YES 10(19)	YES 11(19)	YES 12(19)	YES 13(19)	YES 14(19)	YES 15(19)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(19)
MARYLAND.....	YES 1(20)	YES 2(20)	YES 3(20)	YES 4(20)	YES 5(20)	YES 6(20)	YES 7(20)	YES 8(20)	YES 9(20)	YES 10(20)	YES 11(20)	YES 12(20)	NO	YES 14(20)	NO	YES 16(a)	NO
MASSACHUSETTS.....	YES 1(21)	NO	NO	YES 4(21)	YES 5(21)	YES 6(21)	YES 7(21)	YES 8(21)	NO	YES 10(21)	YES 11(21)	YES 12(21)	YES 13(21)	YES 14(21)	YES 15(21)	YES 16(21)	YES 17(21)
MICHIGAN.....	YES 1(22)	NO	YES 3(22)	YES 4(22)	YES 5(22)	YES 6(22)	YES 7(22)	YES 8(22)	NO	YES 10(22)	NO 11(22)	YES 12(22)	YES 13(22)	NO	NO	YES 16(22)	YES 17(22)
MINNESOTA.....	YES 1(23)	YES 2(23)	YES 3(23)	YES 4(23)	YES 5(23)	YES 6(23)	YES 7(23)	YES 8(23)	YES 9(23)	YES 10(23)	NO 11(23)	YES 12(23)	YES 13(23)	YES 14(23)	YES 15(23)	YES 16(a)	YES 17(23)
MISSISSIPPI.....	YES 1(24)	NO	NO 3(24)	NO	YES 5(24)	YES 6(24)	YES 7(24)	YES 8(24)	YES 9(24)	NO 10(24)	NO	YES 12(24)	NO	YES 14(24)	YES 15(24)	YES 16(24)	YES 17(24)
MISSOURI.....	YES 1(25)	NO	YES 3(25)	YES 4(25)	YES 5(25)	NO	YES 7(25)	YES 8(25)	YES 9(25)	NO 10(25)	YES 11(25)	YES 12(25)	NO	YES 14(25)	NO 15(25)	YES 16(b)	NO
MONTANA.....	YES 1(26)	YES 2(26)	YES 3(26)	YES 4(26)	NO 5(26)	YES 6(26)	NO 7(26)	YES 8(26)	YES 9(26)	YES 10(26)	NO	YES 12(26)	YES 13(26)	YES 14(26)	YES 15(26)	YES 16(26)	NO
NEBRASKA.....	NO 1(27)	NO	YES 3(27)	NO 4(27)	YES 5(27)	NO 6(27)	YES 7(27)	YES 8(27)	YES 9(27)	NO	YES 11(27)	YES 12(27)	NO	YES 14(27)	YES 15(27)	YES 16(27)	YES 17(27)
NEVADA.....	YES 1(28)	NO 2(28)	YES 3(28)	YES 4(28)	YES 5(28)	YES 6(28)	YES 7(28)	YES 8(28)	YES 9(28)	YES 10(28)	NO	YES 12(28)	NO	YES 14(28)	NO	YES 16(b)	YES 17(28)
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	YES 1(29)	NO	YES 3(29)	YES 4(29)	YES 5(29)	YES 6(29)	YES 7(29)	YES 8(29)	NO	YES 10(29)	NO	YES 12(29)	NO	YES 14(29)	YES 15(29)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(29)
NEW JERSEY.....	YES 1(30)	YES 2(30)	NO	NO 4(30)	YES 5(30)	YES 6(30)	YES 7(30)	NO 8(30)	NO	YES 10(30)	NO 11(30)	YES 12(30)	YES 13(30)	NO	NO	YES 16(a)	YES 17(30)
NEW MEXICO.....	YES 1(31)	NO	YES 3(31)	NO	YES 5(31)	YES 6(31)	YES 7(31)	YES 8(31)	YES 9(31)	NO	NO 11(31)	YES 12(31)	NO	YES 14(31)	NO	YES 16(a)	YES 17(31)
NEW YORK.....	YES 1(32)	YES 2(32)	YES 3(32)	NO	YES 5(32)	YES 6(32)	YES 7(32)	NO	NO	YES 10(32)	YES 11(32)	YES 12(32)	NO	YES 14(32)	NO	YES 16(32)	YES 17(32)
NORTH CAROLINA.....	YES 1(33)	NO	NO	YES 4(33)	YES 5(33)	YES 6(33)	YES 7(33)	YES 8(33)	NO	YES 10(33)	NO 11(33)	YES 12(33)	YES 13(33)	YES 14(33)	YES 15(33)	YES 16(33)	YES 17(33)
NORTH DAKOTA.....	YES 1(34)	NO	YES 3(34)	YES 4(34)	YES 5(34)	YES 6(34)	YES 7(34)	YES 8(34)	YES 9(34)	NO	NO	YES 12(34)	YES 13(34)	YES 14(34)	YES 15(34)	YES 16(a)	YES 17(34)
OHIO.....	YES 1(35)	NO	YES 3(35)	YES 4(35)	YES 5(35)	YES 6(35)	YES 7(35)	YES 8(35)	NO	YES 10(36)	NO 11(35)	YES 12(35)	NO	YES 14(35)	NO 15(35)	YES 16(35)	YES 17(35)
OKLAHOMA.....	YES 1(36)	NO	YES 3(36)	YES 4(36)	NO	YES 6(36)	YES 7(36)	YES 8(36)	YES 9(36)	YES 10(36)	NO 11(36)	YES 12(36)	YES 13(36)	YES 14(36)	YES 15(36)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(36)
OREGON.....	YES 1(37)	NO	YES 3(37)	YES 4(37)	YES 5(37)	YES 6(37)	YES 7(37)	YES 8(37)	NO	YES 10(37)	YES 11(37)	YES 12(37)	NO	YES 14(37)	YES 15(37)	YES 16(37)	YES 17(37)
PENNSYLVANIA.....	YES 1(38)	NO	YES 3(a)	NO 4(38)	YES 5(38)	NO 6(38)	YES 7(38)	YES 8(38)	NO	YES 10(38)	NO	YES 12(38)	NO	NO	NO	YES 16(38)	NO 17(38)
RHODE ISLAND.....	NO	NO	YES 3(39)	YES 4(39)	YES 5(39)	YES 6(39)	YES 7(39)	NO	YES 9(39)	NO	NO 11(39)	YES 12(39)	NO	YES 14(39)	YES 15(39)	YES 16(39)	YES 17(39)
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	YES 1(40)	YES 2(40)	YES 3(40)	YES 4(40)	YES 5(40)	YES 6(40)	YES 7(40)	YES 8(40)	YES 9(40)	YES 10(40)	NO	YES 12(40)	NO	NO	NO	YES 16(40)	NO
SOUTH DAKOTA.....	YES 1(41)	YES	YES 3(41)	YES 4(41)	YES 5(41)	YES 6(41)	YES 7(41)	YES 8(41)	YES 9(41)	NO 10(41)	NO 11(41)	YES 12(41)	NO	YES 14(41)	YES 15(41)	YES 16(41)	YES 17(41)
TENNESSEE.....	YES 1(42)	YES 2(42)	YES 3(42)	YES 4(42)	YES 5(42)	YES 6(42)	YES 7(42)	NO 8(42)	YES 9(42)	YES 10(42)	NO	YES 12(42)	YES 13(42)	YES 14(42)	YES 15(42)	YES 16(a)	NO
TEXAS.....	YES 1(43)	NO	YES 3(43)	NO	YES 5(43)	YES 6(43)	YES 7(43)	YES 8(43)	YES 9(43)	NO 10(43)	YES 11(43)	YES 12(43)	NO	YES 14(43)	NO	YES 16(b)	NO
UTAH.....	YES 1(44)	NO	YES 3(44)	YES 4(44)	YES 5(44)	YES 6(44)	YES 7(44)	YES 8(44)	YES 9(44)	YES 10(44)	NO 11(44)	YES 12(44)	NO	YES 14(44)	YES 15(44)	YES 16(44)	NO 17(44)
VERMONT.....	YES 1(45)	YES 2(45)	YES 3(45)	YES 4(45)	NO 5(45)	YES 6(45)	YES 7(45)	YES 8(45)	NO	NO	NO 11(45)	YES 12(45)	YES 13(45)	YES 14(45)	YES 15(45)	YES 16(45)	YES 17(45)
VIRGINIA.....	YES 1(46)	NO	YES 3(46)	YES 4(46)	NO	YES 6(46)	YES 7(46)	YES 8(46)	YES 9(46)	NO 10(46)	NO	YES 12(46)	YES 13(46)	NO 14(46)	NO	YES 16(46)	YES 17(46)
WASHINGTON.....	YES 1(47)	YES 2(47)	YES 3(47)	NO	YES 5(47)	YES 6(47)	YES 7(47)	YES 8(47)	YES 9(47)	YES 10(47)	NO	YES 12(47)	YES 13(47)	YES 14(47)	YES 15(47)	YES 16(b)	NO
WEST VIRGINIA.....	YES 1(48)	NO	YES 3(48)	YES 4(48)	YES 5(48)	YES 6(48)	YES 7(48)	YES 8(48)	YES 9(48)	NO	NO	YES 12(48)	YES 13(48)	YES 14(48)	YES 15(48)	YES 16(b)	YES 17(48)
WISCONSIN.....	YES 1(49)	NO	YES 3(49)	YES 4(49)	YES 5(49)	YES 6(49)	YES 7(49)	YES 8(49)	NO	YES 10(49)	YES 11(49)	YES 12(49)	YES 13(49)	NO	NO 15(49)	YES 15(b)	YES 17(49)
WYOMING.....	YES 1(50)	YES 2(50)	YES 3(50)	NO	YES 5(50)	YES 6(50)	YES 7(50)	YES 8(50)	YES 9(50)	NO	NO 11(50)	YES 12(50)	NO	YES 14(50)	NO	YES 16(a)	NO

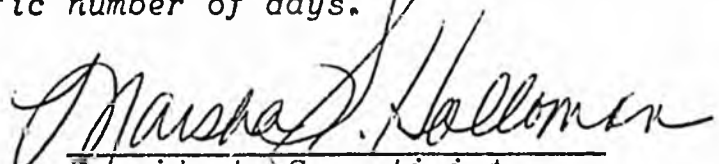
Soroptimist International of Anchorage, Alaska
Northwestern Region
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

P. O. Box 561
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Senator Vic Fischer
Chairman, State Affairs Committee
221 E. 7th Ave. #204
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Senator Fischer,

Soroptimist International of Anchorage supports and urges adoption by the legislature of a legislative session of the shortest duration possible and in no event longer than 120 days (preferably 90 days). Any extension beyond 120 days (preferably 90 days) should require a 2/3 vote of both houses and include a "limited call" provision. The extension itself should be for a specific number of days.



President, Soroptimist
International of Anchorage

STATEMENT ON LIMITING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Presented By

Keith Specking, Legislative Assistant
to the Governor

In my twelve years of legislative service, there was only one session which warranted more than 90 days. That was the first session during which we set up the entire state government -- and we did that in but 84.

Inadequate pay and the necessity to conclude our work expeditiously in order to return to our private sector endeavors at first insured relatively brief sessions. Over time, this changed. The sense of urgency which prevailed in the early years diminished. Increased pay, benefits, staff and workload, compounded by the increasing magnitude and complexity of issues, all served to extend legislative sessions. Most recently, ephemeral funding "surpluses" and resultant attempts by a multitude of interests to secure ever larger cuts of the pie, encumbered the legislature with a host of decisions not confronting those previous legislatures which had no "surplus funds" to dole out.

Ironically, however, it is precisely because of our current "easy money" condition that many have become convinced that both a limitation on spending and session length are now imperative. Gone, with elimination of the income tax, are constraints imposed by public indignation as to how we spend their tax dollars. Gone is the need to insure that

development projects must "pay their own way." Gone is the need to say "no" to "worthy projects" simply because the money's not there.

Any limitation on session length should:

1. Provide ample time to complete work on crucial matters.
2. Serve to reduce the legislative "logrolling" normally required to bring sessions to close, and
3. Provide for less than the current undue 15 day delay before a session could be extended, as is the case now with special sessions.

Some years ago I proposed a constitutional limitation on session length which would have met these objectives. I intend to reintroduce it this year for your consideration.

This would establish a session length "target" of 90 days. If work on crucial issues were not completed by then, only with the concurrence of the governor and leaders of both houses could a special extension of no more than 15 days be called. This could reconvene within 3 days of the regular session's conclusion. Subjects to be considered would be confined to a list of specific measures approved by the governor and a majority of each house.

As we all know, weeks and millions of dollars were added unnecessarily to many sessions under a system which permits a single individual to frustrate the will of the majority in behalf of an issue of crucial concern to himself. If 90 days only were allotted for such activities with the recognition that then such "special issues" would fall through the cracks, I suspect we would seldom see sessions of agonizingly long duration. Especially would such be the case if the spending limitation proposal you passed last year were also adopted.

Certainly with the abundant increase in staff and interim committee activity it would seem that a reduction in session length would have resulted. That precisely the opposite happened, I believe, is very simply attributed to the fact that there is no self imposed pre-session target for either spending or length upon which all parties can agree.

Few individuals have the necessary self discipline to establish such targets and adhere to them absolutely, unless absolutely compelled to do so. How then can we possibly expect a group of 60 to do so?

A public advisory vote demonstrated the public's overwhelming support for a session limitation. Those who disagree with the concept should argue their case to the public, not deny the public the right to set the terms and

conditions imposed upon the public's servants. To do otherwise constitutes public servicing.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM
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ORIGINAL.

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Legislature convenes ^a		Limitation on length of session	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subjects	Limitation on length of session
		Month	Day				
Alabama	Annual	Apr.	3rd Tues. (a,b)	30 l. in 105 C	No	2/3 vote each house	12 l. in 30 C
Alaska	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues.	None	2/3 vote of membership	Yes(d)	30 C
Arizona	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.(c)	None	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes(d)	None
Arkansas	Odd(f)	Jan.	3rd Mon.(a)	60 C(f)	No	(g)	None(g)
California	Even(h)	Dec.	2nd Mon.	None	No	No	None
Colorado	Annual(k)	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Tues.	None	Vote 2/3 members, each house	Yes(d)	None
Connecticut	Annual(l)	Odd: Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	(j)	No	No	None
Delaware	Annual(k)	Even: Feb.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	(j)	Jt. call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Florida	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	June 30	Jt. call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	20 C(f)
Georgia	Annual(k)	Apr.	Tues. after 1st Mon.(b)	60 C(f)	Petition 3/5 members, each house	Yes(d)	(l)
Hawaii	Annual(k)	Jan.	2nd Mon.	40 l.	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 l(f)
Idaho	Annual	Jan.	3rd Wed.	60 l(f)	No	No	20 C
Illinois	Annual(k)	Jan.	Mon. on or nearest 9th day	None	Jt. call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Indiana	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	None	No	Yes	30 l. in 40 C
Iowa	Annual(k)	Jan.	2nd Mon.(b)	Odd: 61 l. or Apr. 30 Even: 30 l. or Mar. 15	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kansas	Annual(k)	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None(m)	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kentucky	Even	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	Odd: none Even: 90 C(f)	No	No	None
Louisiana	Annual	Apr.	3rd Mon.	60 l.	Petition majority, each house	Yes(d)	30 C
Maine	Event(h)	Dec.	1st Wed.	60 l. in 85 C	Vote of majority of each party, each house	Yes(d)	None
Maryland	Event(i)	Jan.	1st Wed. after 1st Tues.	None	Petition majority, each house	Yes	30 C
Maryland	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	90 C(f,n)	Petition majority, each house	Yes	30 C
Massachusetts	Annual	Jan.	1st Wed.	None	Yes	Yes	None
Michigan	Annual(k)	Jan.	1st Wed.	None	No	No	None
Minnesota	Odd(o)	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	120 l. or 1st Mon. after 3rd Sat.	No	Yes	None
Mississippi	Annual	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	(f,n)	No	No	None
Missouri	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	Odd: June 30 Even: May 15	No	No	60 C
Montana	Odd	Jan.	1st Mon.	90 l.	Petition majority, each house	Yes	None
Nebraska	Annual(k)	Jan.	1st Wed. after 1st Mon.	Odd: 90 l(f) Even: 60 l(f)	Petition 2/3 members	Yes	None
Nevada	Odd	Jan.	3rd Mon.	60 C(m)	No	No	20 C(m)
New Hampshire	Odd	Jan.	1st Wed. after 1st Tues.(b)	(m)	Yes	Yes	None(m)
New Jersey	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	None	Petition majority, each house	Yes	None
New Mexico	Annual(l)	Jan.	3rd Tues.	Odd: 60 C Even: 30 C	Petition 3/5 members, each house	Yes(d)	30 C
New York	Annual(k)	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	None	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes(d)	None
North Carolina	Odd(o)	Jan.	Wed. after 2nd Mon.	None	Petition 3/5 members, each house	Yes	None
North Dakota	Odd	Jan.	1st Mon.(h,q)	80 N	No	Yes	None
Ohio	Annual	Jan.	1st Mon.(q)	None	Jt. call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None

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Oklahoma	Annual(k)	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	90 l.	No	No	None
Oregon	Odd	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	Petition majority, each house	Yes	None
Pennsylvania	Annual(k)	Jan.	1st Tues.	None	Petition majority, each house	No	None
Rhode Island	Annual(k)	Jan.	1st Tues.	60 l.(m)	No	No	None
South Carolina	Annual(k)	Jan.	2nd Tues.(b)	None	No	Yes	None
South Dakota	Annual	Jan.	Odd: Tues. after 3rd Mon. Even: Tues. after 1st Mon.	45 l. 30 l.	No	No	None
Tennessee	Odd(f)	Jan.	1st Tues.(b)	90 l(m)	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30(m)
Texas	Odd	Jan.	2nd Tues.	140 C	No	No	30 C
Utah	Annual(l)	Jan.	2nd Mon.	Odd: 60 C Even: 20 C	No	No	30 C
Vermont	Odd(o)	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	None(m)	No	Yes	None
Virginia	Annual(k)	Jan.	2nd Wed.	Even: 60 C(f) Odd: 30 C(f)	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Washington	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	Odd: 105 C Even: 60 C	Petition 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30C
West Virginia	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.(r)	60 C (f, n)	Petition 3/5 members, each house	Yes(s)	None
Wisconsin	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues. after Jan. 8(t)	None	No	No	None
Wyoming	Annual(l)	Jan.	Odd: 2nd Tues. Even: 2nd Tues.	40 l. 20 l.	No	Yes	None

Idaho	...	...	...	10(L,p)	45 A(L,p)	(p)	2/3 elected	Immediately
Illinois	...	*(q)	...	5	10 A	...	2/3 elected	July 1(n)
Indiana	...	*(d)	...	60(f)	60 P(f)	...	2/3 elected(c)	January 1(n,r)
Iowa	...	...	...	7	7 A	...	Majority elected	Proclamation of gov.
Kansas	...	...	...	3	30 A(s)	30 A(s)	2/3 elected	July 1(n)
Kentucky	...	...	...	10	10 P	...	2/3 elected	Upon publication
Louisiana (l)	...	...	...	10	10 A	...	Majority elected	90 days after adjournment
Maine	...	...	...	10(f)	20 P(f)	...	2/3 elected	60 days after adjournment
Maryland (l)	...	...	...	10	(m)	...	2/3 present	90 days after adjournment
Massachusetts	...	*(q)	...	6	30 P(m)	...	2/3 elected	June 1(w)
Michigan	...	*(d)	...	10(i)	...	10 P	2/3 present	90 days
Minnesota	...	...	...	14(f)	...	14 P(f)	2/3 elected & serving	90 days after adjournment
Mississippi	...	...	...	3	...	14 P	2/3 elected	Aug. 1(w)
Missouri	...	*(d)	...	5	15 P(m)	...	2/3 elected	60 days
Montana	...	*(q)	...	15(s)	45 P(m,s)	...	2/3 elected	90 days after adjournment(v,s)
Nebbraska	...	*(y)	...	5(f)	25 A(f)	...	2/3 present(e)	July 1
Nevada	...	...	...	5	5 A	...	2/3 elected	3 mo. after adjournment
New Hampshire	...	...	...	5	10 A	...	2/3 elected	July 1
New Jersey	...	*(q)	*(d)	5	...	5 P	2/3 elected	60 days
New Mexico	...	...	...	10(z)	45 A(z)	45 A(z)	2/3 elected	July 4
New York	...	...	...	3	...	20 A	2/3 present	90 days after adjournment(v)
North Carolina	...	...	...	10	...	30 A(f)	2/3 elected	20 days
North Dakota	...	*(ab)	...	3	...	(ab)	...	30 days after adjournment
Ohio	...	*(d)	...	3	15 A	...	2/3 elected	July 1
	...	...	...	10	10 A	...	2/3 elected	90 days after filed with secretary of state

Oklahoma	...	...	...	5	...	15 A	2/3 elected(e)	90 days after adjournment
Oregon	...	...	...	5	20 A	...	2/3 present	90 days after adjournment
Pennsylvania	...	*(d)	...	10(f)	30 A(f)	...	2/3 elected	60 days
Rhode Island	...	...	...	6	10 A(f)	...	2/3 present	10 days after adjournment
South Carolina	...	...	...	5	(m)	...	2/3 present	20 days
South Dakota	...	...	...	5	15 A	...	2/3 elected	July 1(n)
Tennessee	...	*(d)	...	10	10 A	...	Majority elected	40 days
Texas	...	...	...	10	20 A	...	2/3 present	90 days after adjournment
Utah	...	...	...	5	10 A	...	2/3 elected	60 days after adjournment
Vermont	...	...	...	5	...	3 A	2/3 present	July 1
Virginia	...	...	...	7(f)	...	30 A(f)	2/3 present(ac)	1st day of 4th mo. after adjournment
Washington	...	...	...	5	20 A	...	2/3 present	90 days after adjournment
West Virginia	...	*(d)	...	5	15 A(ad)	...	Majority elected(e)	90 days after final passage by legislature
Wisconsin	...	...	...	6	...	6 P	2/3 present	Upon publication
Wyoming	...	...	...	3	15 A(f)	...	2/3 elected	Immediately
American Samoa	...	...	...	10	...	30 P	2/3 elected	(w)
Guam	...	...	...	10	...	30 P	14 members	(w)
Mariana Islands	...	...	...	10	30	...	3/4 elected	(w)
Puerto Rico	...	*(d)	...	10	...	30 P(f)	2/3 elected	Specified in act
Virgin Islands	...	...	...	10	...	30 P(i)	2/3 elected	15 days (w)
U.S. Congress	...	...	...	10	...	10 P	2/3 present	Immediately

Key:
P—days after presentation to governor
A—days after adjournment of legislature

(a) Sundays excluded.
(b) Bill is returned to house of origin with objections.
(c) Penal acts, 60 days.
(d) The governor can also reduce items in appropriations measures.
(e) Revenue and appropriations bills. Alaska: 2/3 elected. Illinois: appropriation reductions, majority elected. Montana: 2/3. Oklahoma: emergency bills, 3/4. West Virginia: budget and supplementary appropriations, 2/3 elected.
(f) Sundays included.
(g) Regular sessions: the last day which either house may pass a bill (except statutes calling elections, statutes providing for tax levies or appropriations for usual current expenses of the state, and urgency statutes) is August 31 of even-numbered years. All bills given to the governor during the 12 days prior to August 31 of that year become law unless vetoed by September 30. Special sessions: 12 days.
(h) Regular sessions: January 1 next following 90-day period from date of enactment. Special sessions: 91st day after adjournment.
(i) Except Sundays and legal holidays, Hawaii: except Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and any days in which the legislature is in recess prior to adjournment.
(j) Special acts: immediately.
(k) Only by originating house.
(l) Constitution withholds right to veto constitutional amendments.
(m) Bills vetoed after adjournment shall be returned to the legislature for reconsideration. Georgia: returned within 33 days from the date of adjournment for reconsideration within the first 10 days of the next session. Maine: returned within 3 days after the next meeting of the same legislature which enacted the bill or resolution. Maryland: reconsidered at the next meeting of the same General Assembly. Mississippi: returned within 3 days after the beginning of the next session. Missouri: bills returned within 4 days of adjournment or later in first session are considered at beginning of 2nd session. Bills returned in second session are considered in automatic veto session held for no more than 10 days beginning on the first Wednesday following the first Monday in September. South Carolina: within 2 days after the next meeting.
(n) Effective date for acts which become law on or after July 1. Georgia: January 1. Idaho: special sessions, 60 days after adjournment. Illinois: July 1 of next calendar year. Iowa: special sessions, 90 days after adjournment. South Dakota: 91st day after adjournment.

(o) The governor can only reduce items in the executive appropriations measures. The governor can neither reduce nor item veto items in the legislative or judicial budgets, but he may veto the budget as a whole.
(p) The governor must notify the legislature 10 days before the 43rd day of his intent to veto a measure on that day. The legislature may convene on 45th day after adjournment to consider vetoed measures. If the legislature fails to reconvene, the bill does not become law. If the legislature reconvenes, it may pass the measure over the governor's veto or it may amend the law to meet the governor's objections. If the law is amended, the governor must sign the bill within 10 days after it is presented to him for it to become law.
(q) Amendatory veto.
(r) Any law may have another effective date specified. Bills passed after June 30 which specify an earlier effective date must receive the approval of 2/3 of the members elected to each house.
(s) The governor must sign or veto all bills presented to him. Iowa: during the last three days of the session. Missouri: if the governor fails to return the approved or vetoed bill, the legislature by joint resolution may direct the enrollment of the bill and it becomes law.
(t) Item veto on supplementary appropriation bills and capitol construction bill only. The general appropriation bill may not be vetoed.
(u) Bills passed over governor's veto are effective in 30 days or on date specified in bill, whichever is later.
(v) Appropriations acts. Minnesota: July 1. Missouri: immediately. New Mexico: immediately.
(w) All laws require approval by Secretary of Interior.
(x) In event of a recess of 30 days or more, legislature may prescribe by joint resolution that laws previously passed and not effective shall take effect 90 days from beginning of recess.
(y) No appropriation can be made in excess of the recommendations contained in the governor's budget unless by a 2/3 vote. The excess is not subject to veto by the governor.
(z) If house of origin is in temporary adjournment on the 10th day (Sundays excepted) after presentation to governor, bill becomes law on day house of origin reconvenes unless returned by governor on that day.
(aa) Bills not signed by governor do not become law if the 45th day after adjournment sine die comes after the end of the legislative year.
(ab) Governor has no approval or veto power.
(ac) Including majority elected
(ad) Five days for appropriations bills.

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE
ORIGINAL.

Roger H. Gray
% P.O. Box 3-4103 ECB
Anchorage AK.
99501

Hello,

First I would like to express my appreciation for the Legislative Teleconference Network which enables me to express my views concerning Chapter 49. I would also like to take this time to mention the fine jobs being done by the employees of the Legislative Affairs Agency.

I have a prepared statement which I hope to read in its entirety. I will speak individually on the three subsections as listed under Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

Starting with 39.49, Section 1, subsection (1). Why do we need to establish a bureaucracy to "prescribe standards of conduct for Public Officers," when we already have a standard of conduct for public officers. I refer to, of course, to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article 6 paragraph 3 and Article 12 section 5 respectively. Both of which require all public officers to swear to support and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State. The ethics of public officers are crystal clear. They are bound by law and oath to support the Constitutions. This is what they were put in place to do, their oath of office is their only authorization.

In reference to subsection (2) of section 1. of 39.49., I can only agree that the public needs to educate and inform public officers as to their duties and responsibilities.

Subsection (3) of Section 1. of 39.49. makes one wonder what was the intent of this Legislation.

It looks really good on the outside. The Commission appears to offer the public protection from corrupt officers. But here in 39.49.190 we find a loophole a whale of corruption could leap through. 39.49.190 subsection (1) effectively nullifies any protection implied by this legislation to the people.

For you to legislate 39.49.190 with subsection (1) intact is a mockery. Subsection (1) states that the commission may ignore a request for an advisory opinion and thereby sanction a public officer to continue to violate the law by assuming that no opinion, constitutes no violation. And then binds the Commission to no opinion, or to an opinion contrary to the law. This subsection does a real good job of protecting everybody except the citizen.

When a citizen takes the time to point out, to a public officer, a discrepancy in the use of official power, the citizen should be considered, or assumed, knowledgeable of the situation and facts and therefore correct in his judgement.

I suggest we replace Section 39.49.190 subsection (1) with the following paragraph. Upon written request, from a citizen, a public officer or former public officer shall be required to file a request for an advisory opinion as to whether stated facts and circumstances may constitute a violation of this chapter. If an advisory opinion is not issued within 30 days, after the request is filed with the commission, the public officer or former public officer shall consider that the facts and circumstances stated in the request "do" constitute a violation of this chapter; the opinion issued or considered issued is binding on the commission in a subsequent charge concerning the public officer or former public officer who sought the opinion and acted in reliance on it unless material facts were

I feel it is important to point out that this legislation delegates powers that are already vested in the Office of Governor. I would like to know where the legislators got the authority to transfer powers from one Branch of the Government to another. Article III section 16 of the Alaska Constitution clearly states that it is the responsibility of the Governor to insure "the faithful execution... and enforce compliance with any constitutional or legislative mandate, or restrain violation of any constitutional or legislative power, duty, or right by any officer, department or agency of the state or any of its political subdivisions.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that not only does this "Bill", as presented, ~~subvert~~ intentionally subvert and circumvent the peoples right and authority to bring grievances before the proper official, but does so behind a smokescreen of concern for the public interest.

Furthermore this bill is clearly unconstitutional as I pointed out when I referred to Article III Section 16 of the Alaska State Constitution.

This bill should be filed with the other numerous, unconstitutional Bills, Acts, laws, and resolutions for which the Alaska Legislature is renowned.

Respectfully Submitted
Roger H. Gray