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ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
- CSHJR 12 JUL AM 3RD

2ND SESSION 12TH LEG

3/ 3/82 10:14 PM

	24 YEAS	13 NAYS	2 EXC	1 ABS	
Y ABOOD	Y	CHUCKWUK	Y	HAUGEN	Y PHILLIPS
Y ADAMS	<del>N</del>	CLOCKSIN	Y	HAYES	Y RANDOLPH
Y ANDERSON	<del>N</del>	COTTEN	Y	HURLBERT	N ROGERS
Y BARNES	Y	CUDDY	N	MALONE	A SMITH
Y BEIRNE	N	DUNCAN	Y	MARTIN	Y SUTCLIFFE
Y BETTISWORTH	E	FANNING	<del>N</del>	MEEKINS	N VASKA
N BROWN	N	FREEMAN	Y	METCALFE	N ZHAROFF
- E BUCHHOLDT	Y	FULLER	N	MILLER	
Y BYLSMA	N	GARDINER	Y	MONTGOMERY	
Y CARNEY	Y	GRUSSENDORF	N	MOSS	
Y CATO	Y	HALFORD	Y	O'CONNELL	

+ VOTED FOR  
\* CHANGED VOTE

March 3, 1982

1. Re-wrote bill.
2. Did not use Article II, Sections 9 and 10, "SPECIAL SESSIONS" and "ADJOURNMENT."
3. Used instead, Section 8 "REGULAR SESSIONS."
4. No change on Special Sessions.
5. No change on Governor settling adjournment disputes between House.
6. 120 - day adjournment still in the bill but resolution simplified by limiting constitutional amendment to Section 8 "Regular Sessions."
7. Limited to one the number of 10-day extensions. Original bill said increments.

What was Judiciary amendment?

Places change in Article II, Sec. 10, ADJOURNMENT, instead of Article II, Sec. 8, REGULAR SESSIONS. No substantive change, but now makes clear that the extension vote (2/3's of each house) applies only to regular, not special sessions. Allows only one 10-day extension of the 120 - day regular session, where original allowed unlimited extension "increments."

Governor can still agree with one house and adjourn the legislature if disagreement certified by house, before 120 days, per Sec. 10. No change there.

# COMMON SENSE FOR ALASKA

P.O. Box 4-1104

Anchorage, Alaska 99509

## BACK-UP INFORMATION TO 2/25 PRESS RELEASE

(Not to be attached to release, but for answering any questions that may arise concerning the release - copy to Shelby.)

1. Information gained from: Legislative Rules of each state; Constitutions & Statutes; CCH Legislative Information Chart.
2. States with limits imposed listed below, with additional information:

9(1) ALABAMA	-	30 days
14 ARKANSAS	-	60
5(1) CONNECTICUT	-	80 (5 months first year, 3 months 2nd yr. average 80 days)
8 DELAWARE	-	120 (Session ends June 30, average 120 days)
7 FLORIDA	-	60
10 GEORGIA	-	40
11 HAWAII	-	60
13 IDAHO	-	60
14 INDIANA	-	61
16 KANSAS	-	90
15 KENTUCKY	-	60
19 LOUISIANA	-	60
19 MAINE	-	100
22 MARYLAND	-	90
23 MINNESOTA	-	60 (Limited to 120 days for two-year terms)
24 MISSISSIPPI	-	90
25 MISSOURI	-	120 (Session ends June 30, average 120 days)
26 MONTANA	-	90
27 NEBRASKA	-	90
28 NEVADA	-	60
31 NEW MEXICO	-	60
34 NORTH DAKOTA	-	80
36 OKLAHOMA	-	90
37 RHODE ISLAND	-	60
40 SOUTH CAROLINA	-	40
41 SOUTH DAKOTA	-	35/40 (Odd years, 40 days, even years, 35 days)
42 TENNESSEE	-	90
43 TEXAS	-	140
44 UTAH	-	60
45 VIRGINIA	-	60
46 WASHINGTON	-	105
48 WEST VIRGINIA	-	60
50 WYOMING	-	20/40 (Limited to 60 days for a two-year period, 40 legislative days in odd years, 20 in even years.)

FOR ALASKA

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**P.O. Box 4-1104**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99509**

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February 28, 1981  
For Immediate Release:

For further information please  
contact Jean Peterson, 276-7648

"SESSION LIMITATION IMPOSED IN 33 STATES"

ANCHORAGE, AK.---Thirty-three states have imposed a limit on the length of their legislative session, according to a study released today by Common Sense for Alaska. In a nation wide study of the fifty states' legislative rules undertaken by the Common Sense for Alaska Research Committee, it was found that the session length allowed ranged from 140 days to 20 days with an average of 76 days per session.

In addition to determining what states have limitations on their session length, the committee is also reviewing the legislative rules to determine what states allow conference and free conference committees. Additional items under review by the committee include the states' rules on the following: Bill Content; Definition of "Germane"; Public Notice of Committee Meetings; Recommendations Used to Pass Bills Out of Committees; Interim Committees - Authorization if Interim Committees are Allowed; Code of Ethics & Discipline; Contracting

Procedures; Lobbying Laws; Rules Review and Enforcement; Time Limit for Committees to Process Bills; Rule Waiver Procedures; Legislative Oversight.

The Research Committee began its study in January by obtaining copies of the fifty states' legislative rules manuals. "There is no comprehensive study like this anywhere in the U.S.", noted Common Sense President, J. Shelby Stastny. "An estimated 500 hours of research will have been spent by the committee members in compiling this information. Although the majority of information was gained from the different legislative rules, the committee also had to research state constitutions, statutes and other sources of information."

The Common Sense Research Committee is composed of the following members: Jan Faiks, Committee Chair; Ron Brown; Jan Bomhoff; Helen Butcher; Dr. Art Hippler; Darlene Holt; James Johnson, CPA; Karen Jordan; Carol Maser; Paul Robison, Attorney; J. Shelby Stastny, CPA; Kneeland Taylor, Attorney.

The Legislative Rules Study is estimated to be completed in March, 1981 at which time the results will be made available to the public.

RICHARD B. LAUBER

Joe:

I came across this and found it interesting that most of our legislatures are able to get the job done in much less time than Alaska.

You had the right idea - I think there are too many people in our legislature with nothing else to do! See you

Sam -

Rick

*Not - for the  
File and use  
For backup in  
drafting session  
length legislative  
9/11*

STATE

1982

<u>STATES</u>	<u>CONVENES</u>	<u>ADJOURNED</u>	<u>STATES</u>	<u>CONVENES</u>	<u>ADJOURNED</u>
Alabama	1-12-82	4-26-82	Montan.	NOT IN SESSION	
*Alaska	1-11-82	6- 3-82	*Nebraska	1- 6-82	4-16-82
Arizona	1-11-82	4-24-82	Nevada	NOT IN SESSION	
Arkansas	NOT IN SESSION		New Hampshire	NOT IN SESSION	
*California	1- 4-82		New Jersey	1-12-82	
Colorado	1- 6-82	5-24-82	New Mexico	1-19-82	2-18-82
Connecticut	2- 3-82	5- 5-82	*New York	1- 6-82	
*Delaware	1-12-82		*North Carolina	6- 2-82	
Florida	1-18-82	3-25-82	North Dakota	NOT IN SESSION	
*Georgia	1-11-82	3-26-82	*Ohio	1- 5-82	
*Hawaii	1-20-82	4-23-82	*Oklahoma	1- 5-82	
Idaho	1-11-82	3-24-82	Oregon	NOT IN SESSION	
*Illinois	1-13-82		*Pennsylvania	1- 5-82	
Indiana	1- 5-82	2-20-82	*Rhode Island	1- 5-82	5-18-82
*Iowa	1-11-82	4-24-82	*South Carolina	1-12-82	
*Kansas	1-11-82	5-14-82	South Dakota	1- 5-82	2-27-82
Kentucky	1- 5-82	4-15-82	*Tennessee	1-18-82	5- 6-82
Louisiana	4-19-82		Texas	NOT IN SBSSION	
Maine	1- 6-82	4-13-82	Utah	1-11-82	1-30-82
Maryland	1-13-82	4-12-82	*Vermont	1- 5-82	4-22-82
Massachusetts	1- 6-82		Virginia	1-13-82	3-13-82
*Michigan	1-13-82		*Washington	1-11-82	3-11-82
*Minnesota	1-12-82	3-19-82	West Virginia	1-13-82	3-13-82
Mississippi	1- 5-82	4- 4-82	*Wisconsin	1-27-82	4- 2-82
Missouri	1- 6-82	5-15-82	Wyoming	2- 9-82	3- 1-82

\*Bills carried over from 1981 legislative session.



(See also HJR 3--Same topic--PHILLIPS, FRITZ)

HJR 2 --Proposes amendment to Constitution limiting length of -- HAYES, BARNES, FLOOD,  
regular sessions of Legislature. PHILLIPS, FURNACE, ABOOD  
LISKA, COWDERY, SZYMANSK  
TISCHER and FRITZ

1. This would change Article II, Section 8, Constitution of Alaska,  
REGULAR SESSIONS, to limit of 120 days.
- 2/ This contains nothing regarding special sessions, or extensions of the  
120 day limit. (See some of the wording of bills introduced in 12th  
Session.
3. If this is placed before voters at next general election, it would  
automatically take effect 30 days after certification of election,  
if adopted by the voting public (See Art. XIII, Sec. 1, Amendments).  
Thus, no need for effective date to be included.
4. Provision for extension were included in some earlier versions (12th  
Legislature).

IMPACT:

WITNESSES:

FISCAL NOTE (?)

CHANGES:

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2  
 Title Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska  
~~Requesting~~ limiting the length of regular sessions Date 1/20/83  
 of the legislature. Requested by: Representative Charlie Bussell

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Legislative Affairs Agency  
 Program Category Affected General Government  
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Session  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-					
200 TRAVEL	-0-					
300 CONTRACTUAL	-0-					
400 COMMODITIES	-0-					
500 EQUIPMENT	-0-					
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-					

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-					
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS None

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

There is no additional cost for the Division of Elections to place an issue before the voters as that is the Division's function.

IV. DATE 01-21-83

PREPARED BY Wally Harrison, Director, Admin. Svcs.

AGENCY Legislative Affairs Agency

Original: Legislative Finance  
cc: Budget and Management

PHONE 465-3050

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

33-001 (Rev. 12/82)

# First Senate committee endorses session limit

White  
Bureau

— A Senate committee approved a new version of a pro-constitutional amendment to the lengths of legislative ses-

er dickered with three ver- of the limit, the Senate Tran- sition Committee approved a over the jesting protests of its man, Juneau Democrat Bill

e latest proposal, put forth by Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage, limit sessions to 120 days. That could be extended once for 15

days if a majority of each house agreed.

Dankworth said he first wanted a 10-day extension, but he compromised with Senate President Jay Kerttula, D-Palmer, who wanted a 20-day extension.

The Dankworth version replaces three other proposals:

— One that would limit sessions to 120 days with no extensions. This passed the House.

— One that called for a vote by lawmakers on the 110th day on whether they want to adjourn by the 120th day. This passed the Transportation Committee last week. But

Ray retrieved it to offer a bill that would be more acceptable to the House and to senators who want a strict limit on session lengths.

— A new committee proposal, which would call for a vote on the 110th day on whether the session should extend beyond 120 days.

The issue comes on the heels of a record 165-day session last year and in the midst of an effort by House leaders to adjourn as promised by the 105th day — April 25 — this year. The main sponsor of the resolution is House Speaker Joe Hayes, R-Anchorage.

Slightly more than half the states

in the nation have session limits, ranging in length from 20 days for the second-year session in Utah to 125 days for the second session in Mississippi and 140 days for Texas' biennial session.

In addition to regular sessions, special sessions may be called by all governors and by 23 legislatures (including Alaska), according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Ray made several joking attempts Tuesday to quash the resolution quietly. He said he adamantly opposes a limit because it constrains one branch of government to the be-

nefit of the executive and judicial branches.

But Ray clearly was outnumbered by fellow committee members Dankworth, Kerttula and Kenal Republican Don Gilman, all supporters of a limit.

Ray took a voice vote on the new version. "All those in favor of (the resolution), drop dead," he said jokingly. Then he said his lone "no" vote carried.

Kerttula also has urged that the Legislature be careful in muddling with one branch of government without checking how that action affects the other branches.

The Senate president noted that the Legislature generally doesn't meet on weekends, and the House is meeting only three days a week this year.

Dankworth said a more effective limit would be to restrict legislators to no more than a specific number of terms in office.

Ray argued that constituents expect miracles from legislators, "and now they expect to put a time limit on when the miracles are going to happen. . . ."

"I don't think you could have done a competent job in 120 days in the last five years," he said.

## My Turn

By SUZANNE JANSON

I favor a no-nonsense, straight-forward limitation on the length of our Legislative sessions. Parkinson's Law states "work expands to fill the time allowed." Applied to the Legislature, the Executive Branch or private enterprise, it is not only appropriate but virtually a truism! Any organization to be efficient and thereby effective, must plan and establish standards of operation and goals.

Each year one of the major work products of our legislature is the state budget. It amounts to a dollars and cents plan of operation for the coming year and is based on the individual goals for the many governmental functions which make up our state government. It also imposes limitations on government functions in the sense that they cannot do what they are not funded to do! In a very literal sense we can say that what funding is made available limits what time is available—because time is money and visa versa.

Can you imagine awarding a contract to construct a building without limiting how long it would take or how much it would cost? As taxpayers that's exactly what we are doing each year with our legislature. We are awarding a contract to construct our state with no limitation on how long it will take! Like Parkinson's Law we can say, "the Legislature expands to fill the time

Empire 4/12

## Session Limits

allowed"—or—"the Legislature expends what funds are available." Remember—time is money and visa versa.

Let's review a few facts which to me are very relevant to the question of limiting the length of our legislative sessions. Thirty-three other states limit their sessions with the average being 78 days. Limits range from 20 to 140 days, with the vast majority being between 60 and 90 days. Here, in Alaska, no session exceeded 95 days until 1970, when we endured 147 days. Since that time there have been two sessions less than 100 days—in 1973 and 1974—when the House was led by a Republican under coalition—as is now the case. In 1972 and 1978 the sessions lasted 161 days, and in 1980 it was 145 days. But last year was the topper! Last year our legislature spent 185 days in session under the "leadership" of a House Speaker who is a present member of our local delegation! A new and regrettable record, which was made even worse when you consider that it took the leadership 22 days just to organize the House!

Please bear in mind that each and every day of the sessions cost YOU and I about \$40,000.00—just to run the Legislature! Finally, it has been shown that millions of dollars are added to the state budget each day that the Legislature remains in free-conference.

Interestingly, last year's record length session produced our state's largest ever budget!

When I consider the issue of limiting the length of the legislative session, I can't help but remember the fact that we Alaskans are just slightly over 400,000 strong—small in population when compared to our sister states to the South. Here are some more facts to consider. The 33 states that limit their length of sessions have an average population of 3,105,230 compared to our 407,500. Again, their average limited session is 78 days, whereas our average session length has been 135 days, and the curve continues to climb upward! Consider Texas—oil and natural resource rich, a widely diversified large state with many of the like cultural variances that Alaska has, but with over 13 million people with all of the attendant social problems and issues relevant to 13 million people, and Texas has been able to limit their legislature to 140 days in session!

I find no sensible reason not to limit our Legislative sessions. You and I—the people—should decide this issue—not the Legislature! We must insist on a "Can-Do" spirit from our legislators—one which is very simply a working partnership between them and us!

# Hearing promised on session limit

By JON MATTHEWS  
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — House Speaker Joe Hayes, R-Anchorage, said Monday he hopes public opinion will steer the Senate into acting on a House-passed proposal to limit the length of legislative sessions.

And Senate Transportation Chairman Bill Ray, D-Juneau, said Monday he is planning to hold a hearing on the measure at an unspecified future date.

Senate President Jay Kerttula, D-Palmer, last week upset House leaders when he referred the proposed 120-day session limit to Ray's Transportation Committee. The referral to the unrelated panel was seen as an early, Senate-backed death for the constitutional ballot question, one of the conservative House coalition's priorities for the 1982 legislature.

"I tend not to let myself get too angry," said Hayes. "But I think it's fairly obvious that the referral of a constitutional issue to Transportation is clearly outside the scope of the subject matter of the committee."

Ray said on the Senate



floor that he believes his transportation panel can and will take a balanced look at the session limit issue, with some members in favor of limiting sessions and others, including Kerttula, still undecided.

Ray said a hearing will be held possibly within the next 10 days but that his committee must first deal with such issues as the proposed state takeover of the Alaska Railroad.

"I'll make some public comments like this," said Hayes, asked how he would react to the Transportation Committee referral. "But I think it's going to be fairly obvious to the public that several members of the Senate are soft on limiting session length."

"I think there is a lot of public support for the issue."

## Bill may die in Senate

The Associated Press

JUNEAU — A House-passed resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to limit the length of legislative sessions may be doomed to a slow death in the Senate.

Senate President Jalmar Kerttula, D-Palmer, Friday referred the measure to the Judiciary and Transportation committees for hearings.

The House resolution is expected to bog down in the Transportation Committee.

Asked when the resolution might get a hearing, Transportation Chairman Bill Ray, D-Juneau, said "this afternoon" and chuckled. Ray joked that he may hold public hearings on the proposed constitutional amendment in Anaktuvuk Pass and Unalakleet.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has twice voted down a Senate resolution that would limit the length of legislative sessions to 120 days with a possible seven-day extension.

The House version of the legislation would limit regular sessions to 120 days with no extension allowed.

Judiciary Chairman Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage, said a majority of the committee doesn't favor the resolution, "so, I could not move it" to a vote of the full House.

Rodey said he supports the resolution.

He said his committee may consider the Senate version of the legislation for a third time.

If approved by the legislature, the session-limiting plan would need to be ratified by voters.

News 3/16

A-4 The Anchorage Times, Monday, March 15, 1982

## Limit

(Continued from page A-1)

who's pushing the proposal in the Senate, said last week he is one vote short of the 14 needed to put the limit on the ballot. One observer said today that the seven "no" votes are just as adamant against the limit as the 13 "yes" votes are for it.

Senate President Jay Kerttula, D-Palmer, said today he sent the resolution to Ray's panel for two reasons: that committee isn't too busy now and some of the Senate's top leaders, including himself, sit on the five-member panel.

Ray said the complaints about the measure going to him are a slap in the face. "What are people trying to say, that I'm not competent to conduct a fair hearing?" Ray asked. "You can rest assured it will get a fair hearing."

ported a limit. "The courts are asking for more judges because they have more work."

"The administration, they're busier all the time. We give them 300 to 500 new employees every year. And yet you want to cut down on the Legislature." It's a separation of powers issue, he said.

"I think we have so many complicated problems. When the critics say we're not working, God, we're working all the time," he said.

The Alaska Legislature, unlike most state legislatures, has no revenues that are committed for specific programs, he said. All money goes into the state's general fund, and the Legislature must sort through competing interests in allocating that money, he said.

"You're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars. They want us to just come in and make snap judgments?"

Also, the governor frequently drops major bills on the Legislature

late in the session, Ray said, referring to Gov. Jay Hammond's proposal for a permanent fund dividend backup plan introduced last week. The Legislature needs time if it's to handle these bills properly, he said.

Other members of Ray's committee are split on the proposed limit.

Sen. John Sackett, R-Ruby, said a session limit "just limits ourselves."

Sens. Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage, and Don Gilman, R-Kenai, both said they support the limit. Dankworth said he thinks 120 days is too long. Gilman said he might make a motion to move the bill from committee. But he said he must be careful not to cross any of his powerful colleagues who oppose the limit. "I don't want to get my head pinched off," he said.

Kerttula said he favors a limit. But any proposal must contain a provision to extend the limit. The resolution contains no such wording as it came from the House.

By The Associated Press

A watered-down version of a House resolution calling for a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment limiting the length of legislative sessions emerged from the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday.

It is "better than nothing, but not much," said House Speaker Joe Hayes, R-Anchorage.

The committee's resolution calls for the House and Senate to vote on or before the 120th day of regular legislative sessions on whether to adjourn.

The resolution passed by the House would mandate adjournment on the 120th day.

Proposed amendments to the Alaska Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds vote in each house and ratified by voters.

Transportation Chairman Bill Ray, D-Juneau, said his committee's proposal gives voters what they want, the opportunity to see their representatives held publicly accountable for the length of a session.

At the same time, he said, it gives the Legislature the flexibility to remain in session as long as necessary to finish important business.

Sen. Bob Ziegler, D-Ketchikan, told the Transportation Committee the House plan is too restrictive.

"The idea, as great as it might sound, is neither wise nor responsible," Ziegler said. "Hasty decisions are invariably bad decisions."

Sen. Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage, comparing the Legislature to the board of directors of a major land and oil company, wondered whether legislative business could be done in 120 days each year.

"I really believe we could get our work done in 90 days," Hayes told the committee. "You need to put some time constraints on whatever project you undertake."

"Psychologically and otherwise," Hayes said, "there are certainly some merits to it."

Dankworth said he favors a limit on the length of legislative sessions, but noted that in his six years as a lawmaker the time needed to complete the Legislature's business has varied.

The Alaska Legislature does "more than any other state would dream of doing," he said, pointing to last year's deliberations on how to appropriate \$8 billion.

"That takes a lot of time and a lot of debate," Dankworth said. Kneely Taylor of Common Sense for Alaska, however, said shorter sessions mean better government.

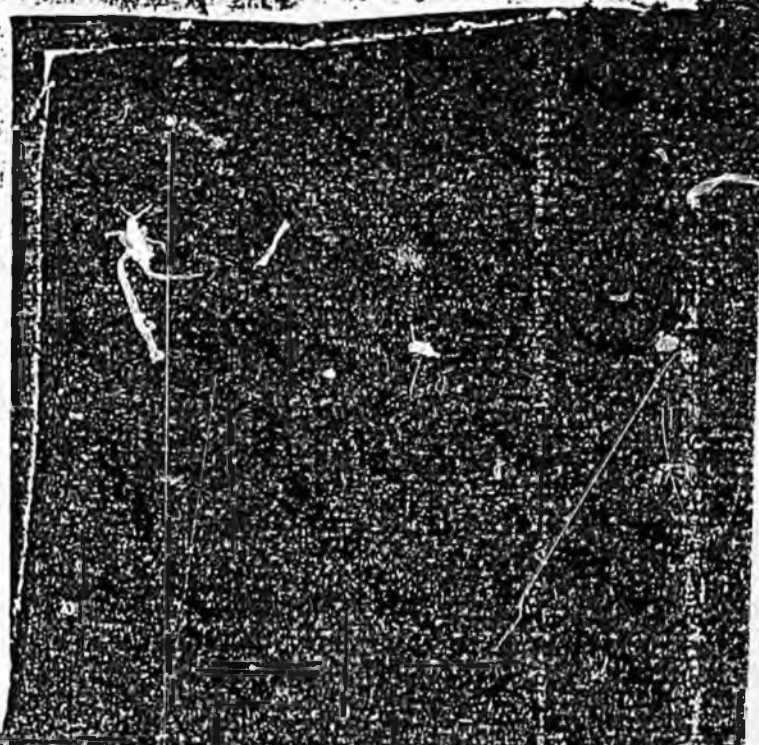
Common Sense is concerned about what it sees as "the trend toward a full-time professional Legislature," he said.

George Krusz, the president of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, echoed the concern.

"The concept of a citizen's Legislature is one to which our members subscribe," he said.

Paula Ziegler, president of the League of Women Voters of Alaska, said the organization "favors the idea of stopping somewhere along the line and voting on the matter," but she said the league faced the same predicament as the Transportation Committee in trying to decide when that vote should be taken.

The resolution (SCSCSJR12 Transportation) moves to the Senate Judiciary Committee where a resolution limiting legislative sessions to 120 days, plus a possible seven-day extension, has twice died.



## House's session limit bill changed

The Associated Press

11/11/11

JUNEAU — A watered-down version of a House resolution calling for a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment limiting the length of legislative sessions emerged from the Senate Transportation Committee Tuesday.

The committee's resolution calls for the House and Senate to vote on or before the 120th day of regular legislative sessions on whether to adjourn. The resolution passed by the House would mandate adjournment on the 120th day.

Proposed amendments to the Alaska Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds vote in each house and ratified by voters.

Transportation Chairman Bill Ray, D-Juneau, said his committee's proposal gives voters what they want, the opportunity to see their representatives held publicly accountable for the length of a session.

Sen. Bob Ziegler, D-Ketchikan, said the House plan is too restrictive. "Hasty decisions are invariably bad decisions," he said.

Sen. Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage, said he wonders whether legislative business could be done in 120 days each year.

"I really believe we could get our work done in 90 days," said House Speaker Joe Hayes, R-Anchorage. "You need to put some time constraints on whatever project you undertake."

Kneely Taylor of Common Sense for Alaska said shorter sessions mean better government. Common Sense is concerned about what it sees as "the trend toward a full-time professional legislature."

Paula Ziegler, president of the League of Women Voters of Alaska, said the organization "favors the idea of stopping somewhere along the line and voting on the matter," but she said they faced the same predicament as the Transportation Committee in trying to decide when that vote should be taken.

The resolution moves to the Senate Judiciary Committee where a resolution limiting legislative sessions to 120 days, plus a possible seven-day extension, has twice died.

# 90-day session limit termed unrealistic

by Ralph Nichols  
Times Writer

Times 2/27

Members of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce were told Monday that it isn't realistic to get a proposed constitutional amendment limiting legislative sessions to 90 days through the Legislature.

Rep. Richard Halford, R-Chugiak, said it "is a case where you cannot allow the perfect (a 90-day limit) to get in the way of the better (a 120-day limit)." And, he said, getting a proposed amendment limiting legislative sessions to 120 days on the November ballot "is within the realm of possibility."

Sen. Tim Kelly, R-Anchorage, agreed. He said "something is better than nothing," adding that his resolution to limit legislative sessions to 120 days with a provision for one seven-day extension probably will be supported by every senator from Anchorage.

Kelly said most of the opposition to limiting legislative sessions is coming from lawmakers from the Southeast and the Bush.

The comments came during a chamber luncheon program intended to update the Anchorage business community on various legislative activities. Members of the audience

spoke with their representatives via a live television hookup.

Rep. Joe Montgomery, R-Anchorage, said the Legislature supports education statewide, and that any budget cuts in appropriations for either public schools or the University of Alaska "will be made very, very cautiously."

Taking a look at overall budget-cutting efforts, Rep. Sam Cotton, D-Eagle River, said he doesn't disagree with the general philosophy of reducing the state's general operating budget for the 1983 fiscal year. But, he continued, "there is not enough thought into the conse-

quences of reducing the budget.

Cotton singled out consumption, day care services, and municipal assistance as just three where he thinks the impact of cutbacks hasn't been considered equately.

Sen. Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage, said the state urgently needs anism to administer capital investments, and Rep. David Cuddy, D-Chugiak, said he favors tighter controls on capital investment with a limitation on spending.

Referring to a proposal for capital investments administered by an independent board, much investment fund, Rodey said the Legislature does not really give up its power over capital appropriations.

Rep. Ramona Barnes, R-Anchorage, lobbied for a bill cracking down on driving while intoxicated, "there should never be an excuse for a drunk driver to get behind the wheel of a vehicle." And Charles Anderson, R-Anchorage, called a new drug bill "a very good law."

## Session limit plan assured of fair hearing

Bill White  
Times Juneau Bureau

Times 3/15

Juneau — Senate leaders today denied accusations by House Speaker Joe Hayes, R-Anchorage, that they are trying to kill a proposal to limit legislative sessions to 120 days.

Sen. Bill Ray said he will give a proposal to limit legislative sessions to 120 days a fair hearing next week, even though he personally opposes such a limit.

The Juneau Democrat chairs the Transportation Committee, to which the proposed constitutional amendment was referred in an unusual action. Normally the proposal would go

to the State Affairs Committee, and observers were saying over the weekend that the measure was given to Ray to kill it.

Hayes said that giving the bill to Ray's committee "is an effort to kill it. The Senate used to send bills to Labor and Commerce (Committee) when they wanted to kill them. Apparently the committee of no return this year is Transportation. I look at it as someone being soft on the bill."

The House passed the measure last week, a year after the Legislature met for a record 165-day session.

Sen. Tim Kelly, R-Anchorage, (See LIMIT, page A-4)

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST  
 Bill/Resolution No. House Joint Resolution No. 2  
 Title "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska limiting the length of regular sessions of the legislature."  
 Requested by House Judiciary Date 1/20/83

II. FISCAL DETAIL  
 Agency Affected Office of the Governor  
 Program Category Affected Division of Elections  
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Division of Elections  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

NONE

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)  
 No additional fiscal impact is anticipated with House Joint Resolution No. 2.

IV. DATE 1/20/83 PREPARED BY Danith D. Arnoldt, Deputy Director  
 AGENCY Office of the Governor, Division of Elections  
 Original: Legislative Finance PHONE 586-6181  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)  
 33-001 (Rev. 12/82)