

HCR

441

# STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY**  
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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. JUD.	3-24-88	1:30p.m.
H. JUD	3-3-88	1:30p.m.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/3/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: March 24, 1988

The Judiciary Committee has considered HCR 41

Proposing an amendment to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to deadlines for session work

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with CS HCR 41 (Jud)  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

[Signature] NO REC

[Signature] (NO REC)

[Signature] NO REC

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

Vice Chairman's signature

5-1528L  
Cook  
3/23/88

*Adopted*

Original sponsors: Ellis, Navarre,  
Ulmer, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41 (Judiciary)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Proposing an amendment to the Uniform  
6 Rules of the Alaska State Legislature  
7 relating to deadlines for session work.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. The Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature are  
10 amended by adding a new rule to read:

11 RULE 56. SESSION SCHEDULE. (a) The following schedule applies  
12 during a first and second session to consideration of a bill:

13 (1) the house of origin may not calendar a bill for [first  
14 or] second reading after the 90th legislative day;

15 (2) a bill may not be transmitted by the house of origin to  
16 the second house after the 95th legislative day;

17 (3) the second house may not calendar a bill for [first or]  
18 second reading after the 114th legislative day;

19 (4) a bill may not be transmitted by the second house to  
20 the house of origin after the 117th legislative day;

21 (5) a report of a Conference Committee with limited powers  
22 of free conference may not be submitted after the 118th legislative  
23 day.

24 (b) A report of a Conference Committee with limited powers of  
25 free conference may not be voted on by a house until at least 24 hours  
26 after it is duplicated and delivered to the chief clerk or secretary  
27 of the house for distribution to each member. The chief clerk or  
28 secretary shall certify the time of delivery of the report for record-  
29 ing in the journal.

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(c) This rule may be suspended by a concurrent resolution approved by majority vote in each house. This rule does not apply to resolutions.

BY ELLIS, NAVARRE, ULMER,  
BROWN, HANLEY, DAVIS,  
KOPONEN, COLLINS, ZAWACKI,  
DAVIDSON AND FRANK

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Proposing an amendment to the Uniform

6

Rules of the Alaska State Legislature

7

relating to deadlines for session work.

8

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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or second reading after the 95th legislative day;

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(2) a bill may not be transmitted by the house of origin to

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the second house after the 100th legislative day;

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(3) the second house may not calendar a bill for first or

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second reading after the 114th legislative day;

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(4) a bill may not be transmitted by the second house to

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the house of origin after the 117th legislative day.

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(b) This rule does not apply to resolutions.

*Least moves deadlines forward*

Original sponsors: Ellis, Navarre,  
Ulmer, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41 (Judiciary)

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7 relating to deadlines for session work.

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10 amended by adding a new rule to read:

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12 during a first and second session to consideration of a bill:

13 (1) the house of origin may not calendar a bill for second  
14 reading after the 90th legislative day;

15 (2) a bill may not be transmitted by the house of origin to  
16 the second house after the 95th legislative day;

17 (3) the second house may not calendar a bill for first or  
18 second reading after the 114th legislative day;

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20 the house of origin after the 117th legislative day;

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
(907) 274-4031

WHILE IN SESSION  
P.O. BOX V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3704

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE

OFFICE OF MAJORITY WHIP

CO-CHAIR  
HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOR & COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRADE



REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: To House Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis *JE*

RE: HCR 41 - "relating to deadlines for session work"

DATE: March 3, 1988

\*\*\*\*\*

Attached you will find materials to serve as backup for HCR 41 which proposes to amend the Uniform Rules to set deadlines for the passage of bills through the legislature. This resolution is sponsored by myself and has ten cosponsors.

Last session, 17% of the total legislation which passed the either the House or the Senate was debated on the floor, by either body, for the first time, during the last three days of the session. Thirty bills passed either the House or the Senate on the last day. The figures for the 1986 session are similar with first time floor consideration at 16% in the last three days and 33 bills passing on the last day. For the 1985 session the figures were 18% in the last three days and 24 bills on the last day.

Without belaboring the figures, we are all aware of the rush of legislation that is brought to the floor in the final days of the session and the public indignation that follows. Adequate consideration and debate of each bill is simply not possible during marathon floor sessions jammed with the most important and often complex legislation.

This resolution, in my view, does not place onerous or unnecessary restrictions on the movement of bills, but rather provides more breathing room for the adequate consideration of legislation at sessions' end. Such planned movement of bills is necessary now that we operate under a 120 day session limit.

In the Alaska Legislative Procedures Study, Final Report, submitted to The Joint Special Committee on Legislative Reform in May of 1983, the National Conference of State Legislatures recommended scheduling deadlines as a means to strengthen legislative operations. As the report states, "scheduling helps to avoid some of the last minute chaos, and assures important bills are not lost in the process". Many states have employed scheduling deadlines to help alleviate logjams.

When the voters passed the session limitation section to the State Constitution in 1984 they also approved language that, "the Legislature shall adopt as part of the uniform rules of procedure deadlines for scheduling session work not inconsistent with provisions controlling the length of the session," Article II, Section 8. In my view the Legislature has not lived up to this constitutional mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of HCR 41.

BY ELLIS, NAVARRE, ULMER,  
BROWN, HANLEY, DAVIS,  
KOPONEN, COLLINS, ZAWACKI,  
DAVIDSON AND FRANK

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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18 second reading after the 114th legislative day;

19 (4) a bill may not be transmitted by the second house to  
20 the house of origin after the 117th legislative day.

21 (b) This rule does not apply to resolutions.

# Constitution Article II

Salary and Expenses	ing to. or returning from legislative sessions are not subject to civil process and are privileged from arrest except for felony or breach of the peace.
Regular Sessions	SECTION 7. Legislators shall receive annual salaries. They may receive a per diem allowance for expenses while in session and are entitled to travel expenses going to and from sessions. Presiding officers may receive additional compensation.  SECTION 8. The legislature shall convene in regular session each year on the fourth Monday in January, but the month and day may be changed by law. The legislature shall adjourn from regular session no later than one hundred twenty consecutive calendar days from the date it convenes except that a regular session may be extended once for up to ten consecutive calendar days. An extension of the regular session requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature. The legislature shall adopt as part of the uniform rules of procedure deadlines for scheduling session work not inconsistent with provisions controlling the length of the session. [Amendment approved November 6, 1984]
Special Sessions	* { SECTION 9. Special sessions may be called by the governor or by vote of two-thirds of the legislators. The vote may be conducted by the legislative council or as prescribed by law. At special sessions called by the governor, legislation shall be limited to subjects designated in his proclamation calling the session, to subjects presented by him, and the reconsideration of bills vetoed by him after adjournment of the last regular session. Special sessions are limited to thirty days. <small>(The amendment of this section was approved by the voters of the state November 2, 1976 and became effective December 23, 1976. This amendment deleted "or" preceding "to subjects" in the third sentence and added "and the reconsideration of bills vetoed by him after adjournment of the last regular session.")</small>
Adjournment	SECTION 10. Neither house may adjourn or recess for longer than three days unless the other concurs. If the two houses cannot agree on the time of adjournment and either house certifies the disagreement to the governor, he may adjourn the legislature.



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE CALENDAR

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH DAY

Sunday

May 17, 1987

Convenes: 1:00 p.m.

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#### SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILLS

- HB 160 "An Act establishing the Commission on the Future of the Permanent Fund; providing for public testimony on the use that should be made of the income and principal of the permanent fund; and providing for an effective date."  
-State Affairs report w/CS, new title, p. 797:  
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 160 (State Affairs)  
"An Act establishing the Commission on the Future of the Permanent Fund; providing for public testimony on the investment policy for the principal and the use that should be made of the income of the permanent fund; and providing for an effective date."  
Letter of Intent, p. 797  
Fiscal Note published 4/10/87  
-Judiciary report w/CS, new title, p. 1443  
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 160 (Judiciary)  
"An Act establishing the Commission on the Future of the Permanent Fund; providing for public testimony on the investment policy for the principal and the use that should be made of the income of the permanent fund; and providing for an effective date."  
-Finance report w/CS, new title, p. 1480:  
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 160 (Finance)  
"An Act establishing the Commission on the Future of the Permanent Fund; providing for public testimony on the use that should be made of the income of the permanent fund; and providing for an effective date."  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/15/87
- HB 187 "An Act relating to geographic pay differentials; and providing for an effective date."  
-Governor's Transmittal Letter, p. 547  
Fiscal Note published 3/18/87  
-State Affairs report, p. 698  
-Finance report w/CS, new title, p. 1399:  
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 187 (Finance)  
"An Act relating to sick leave and medical leave, salaries, and geographic pay differentials of certain state employees who are not members of collective bargaining units; relating to salary surveys; repealing a requirement that the director of personnel prepare an annual pay schedule; and providing for an effective date."  
Letter of Intent, p. 1400  
Fiscal Note published 5/14/87

Continued on back

House Calendar  
119th Day  
May 17, 1987

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILLS (Continued)

- HB 220 "An Act relating to legislative per diem; and providing for an effective date."  
-State Affairs report w/CS(SA), same title, p. 882  
Letter of Intent, p. 883  
Fiscal Note published 4/17/87  
-Finance report w/CS(Fin), same title, p. 1535  
Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- HB 294 "An Act relating to compensation of legislators; and providing for an effective date."  
-Finance report w/CS, new title, p. 1305:  
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 294 (Finance)  
"An Act relating to compensation of legislators and legislators-elect; and providing for an effective date."  
Fiscal Note published 5/11/87  
-Rules report w/CS, new title, p. 1537  
CS HOUSE BILL NO. 294 (Rules)  
"An Act relating to compensation of legislators and legislators-elect; and providing for an effective date."
- HB 284 "An Act making appropriations for capital projects; and providing for an effective date."  
-Finance report w/CS(Fin), p. 1536
- HB 29 "An Act making a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development for distribution to qualified regional aquaculture associations; and providing for an effective date."  
-Labor & Commerce report, p. 100  
-Resources report, p. 172  
-Finance report forthcoming

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS

- CSSB 33 "An Act relating to the violation of compulsory education laws."  
(HESS)  
-HESS report w/HCS(HESS), same title, p. 725  
-Judiciary report w/HCS(HESS), p. 1118  
-Finance report w/HCS(HESS), p. 1429
- CSSB 39 "An Act relating to the Real Estate Commission; and providing for an effective date."  
(HESS)  
-Labor & Commerce report, p. 1445  
-Finance report, p. 1539

House Calendar  
119th Day

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS (Continued)

- CSSB 133 "An Act relating to general grant land entitlements; and providing for an effective date."  
(Fin)am  
-Resources report w/HCS(Res), same title, pp. 1144 & 1172  
-Finance report w/HCS(Fin), same title, p. 1541  
Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- CSSB 146 "An Act relating to weights and measures; citation authority of employees enforcing weights and measures limitations; and providing for an effective date."  
(Trsp)  
-Transportation report w/HCS(Trsp), same title, p. 1402  
-Labor & Commerce report w/HCS(Trsp), same title, p. 1445  
-Judiciary report w/HCS(Trsp), same title, p. 1528
- CSSB 162 "An Act relating to fisheries business tax refunds to local government; and providing for an effective date."  
(L&C)am  
-C&RA report, p. 1217  
-Finance report w/HCS, new title, p. 1446:  
HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 162 (Finance)  
"An Act relating to the fisheries business tax; and providing for an effective date."  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/15/87  
Zero Fiscal Note w/analysis published 5/15/87
- CSSB 196 "An Act relating to management of state land; and providing for an effective date."  
(Rls)  
-Resources report, p. 1446
- CSSB 212 "An Act extending the termination date of the Special Education Service Agency; and providing for an effective date."  
(HESS)  
-HESS report, p. 1499
- CSSB 219 "An Act creating the Alaska Center for International Business; and providing for an effective date."  
(I.T.)  
-Finance report, p. 1542  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- CSSB 227 "An Act relating to claims of state agencies to permanent fund dividends."  
(SA)  
-State Affairs report w/HCS(SA), same title, p. 1405  
Fiscal Note published 5/14/87  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/14/87  
-Finance report, p. 1543
- CSSB 238 "An Act relating to the Alaska Research Policy Act and the science and engineering advisory commission; and providing for an effective date."  
(Fin)  
-Finance report, p. 1543

House Calendar  
119th Day

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS (Continued)

- CSSB 247 "An Act relating to citations for certain offenses; and  
(Jud) providing for an effective date."  
-Finance report w/HCS(Fin), same title, p. 1543  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- SB 290 "An Act relating to supplying false information on fish  
tickets."  
-Resources report, p. 1487  
-Judiciary report, p. 1499
- SB 294 "An Act removing the anti-diarrheal prescription drug  
loperamide from the schedules of controlled sub- stances  
under the Criminal Code."  
-Judiciary report, p. 1499
- CSSB 297 "An Act placing a moratorium until July 1, 1988, on the  
(Res) issuance or granting of licenses, permits, leases, or  
authorizations for commercial finfish farming; providing  
for a bivalve spat collection permit; and providing for an  
effective date."  
-Resources report w/HCS(Res), same title, p. 1544  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- CSSB 64 "An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and  
(Rls)an Export Authority; and providing for an effective date."  
-Labor & Commerce report w/HCS(L&C), same title, p. 1216  
-Finance report forthcoming
- CSSB 53 "An Act establishing criteria for the allocation of fishery  
(Fin) resources by the Board of Fisheries among commercial  
fisheries and among groups of commercial fishermen within  
an administrative area for the purpose of preventing  
economic distress among commer- cial fishermen and those  
dependent upon them for a livelihood; and providing for an  
effective date."  
-Resources report w/HCS, new title, p. 1539:  
HCS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 53(Resources)  
"An Act authorizing the Board of Fisheries to adopt  
regulations establishing certain types of registration  
and use areas for regulating commercial fishing; and  
providing for an effective date."  
Intent, p. 1539  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/16/87
- CSSB 56 "An Act amending and making effective an annuity program  
(Jud) and amendments to the longevity bonus program and the  
permanent fund diviand program provided for in secs. 2 -  
18, ch. 99, SIA 1985; and providing for an effective date."  
-State Affairs report w/HCS(SA), same title, p. 1483

House Calendar  
119th Day

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS (Continued)

CS

SSSB 22 "An Act exempting certain telephone and electric utilities and certain transactions from regulation by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission; restricting the authority of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission in considering certain costs in connection with rates charged by a utility and with calculating power cost equalization; and providing for an effective date."  
-Judiciary report w/HCS(Jud), same title, p. 1445

CSSB 157 "An Act appropriating from the earnings reserve account of the Alaska permanent fund to the general fund."  
(Fin)  
- State Affairs report w/HCS, new title, p. 767:  
HCS CS for SENATE BILL 157(SA)  
"An Act appropriating from the earnings reserve account of the Alaska permanent fund to the general fund; and providing for an effective date."  
Fiscal Note published 4/8/87  
-Finance report w/HCS(Fin), same title, p. 1541

SECOND READING OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

HR 7 Relating to the funding of the Emergency Medical Services System.  
-HESS report w/CS(HESS), same title, p. 1175  
Zero Fiscal Note published 5/6/87

SECOND READING OF SENATE RESOLUTIONS

CSSJR 19 Relating to resident hire on a United States Department of (SA)am Defense project at Amchitka Island.  
-Labor & Commerce report, p. 1538

THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILLS

CSHB 166 "An Act making an appropriation from the general fund to (Rls) the budget reserve fund of any positive amount in the general fund balance on June 30, 1988, as reported on the combined balance sheet in the state's annual financial report for fiscal year 1988."  
-Advanced to third from 5/16 calendar, p. 1504

CITATIONS

Honoring - Nellie Bennett  
By Senators Duncan, Kerttula, Fahrenkamp, Halford, Kelly, Sturgulewski, Eliason, Zharoff, Szymanski; Representatives Hudson, Ulmer

Honoring - Dr. Kenneth Burnley  
By Representative Koponen

In Memoriam - Lillian A. Tackes  
By Senators Sturgulewski, Uehling, Josephson, Halford

In Memoriam - Frank Dewey, Jr.  
By Representative Koponen

# ALASKA LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES STUDY

## FINAL REPORT

Submitted to:

The Joint Special Committee on Legislative Reform



Prepared by the

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES**

**1125 Seventeenth Street, Suite 1500**

**Denver, Colorado 80202**

**May 15, 1983**

## PART I

### RULES AND PROCEDURES

The National Conference of State Legislatures' study of the Alaska Legislature's rules and procedures began with a detailed review of the uniform rules and the gathering of information on staff size, turnover, committee makeup, committee budgets, session deadlines, past session patterns, bill flow, and interim work. Four areas - - session length, the committee process, the interim period and staff - - were examined. The National Conference of State Legislatures' staff conducted numerous interviews with leaders, committee chairmen, other members and staff of the Alaska Legislature to determine areas of concern. Lobbyists, members of the press and public interest groups also were interviewed. The study is not a comprehensive review of the Alaska Legislature's rules and procedures, but focuses on the specific problem areas identified through the interviews.

What follows is a series of recommendations for the Alaska Legislature to consider covering various aspects of session length, the committee process, the interim period and staff. The recommendations are accompanied by a discussion of the problems as raised by members of the Alaska Legislature and information on other state practices as possible solutions for Alaska.

#### A. Session Length

Background: Legislatures today face extremely complex issues and tremendous bill volumes. To maintain the part-time citizen legislature and still deliberate on and screen bills has become increasingly difficult. Scheduling session time effectively is critical. Scheduling helps to avoid some of the last minute chaos, and assures important bills are not lost in the process. Scheduling helps regulate session work and can help to expedite session time.

1. The Alaska Legislature should establish a series of deadlines for scheduling session work and controlling the length of the session. The legislature should consider, at a minimum, scheduling session work (whether by rules or leadership direction) to cover the following:

- o Bill draft requests
- o Introduction of bills in house of origin
- o Committee action for house of origin bills
- o Final floor action in house of origin
- o Committee action for bills from opposite house
- o Final floor action for bills from the opposite house
- o Conference committee reports.

2. The Alaska Legislature should adopt a session scheduling system which emphasizes committee work early in the session and floor activity in the later weeks. The legislature should consider removing the limit of ten prefiled bills per member and encourage

members to prefile the majority of bills during the interim before the start of the session. Leadership should be able to assign bills to committees during the interim.

Discussion: There is concern among members of the Alaska legislature and the public that the legislature is spending too much time in session. They are concerned about preserving the part-time, citizen legislature. Yet, there is a lack of consensus, as evidenced by the interviews and votes on constitutional amendments, for limiting the number of session days or instituting a per diem cut off. Clearly, the number of session days has increased over the last four bienniums. The first and second sessions of the Eighth Alaska Legislature were 95 and 96 days, respectively. The first session of the Twelfth Alaska Legislature, however, was 165 days and the second session was 144 days. The length of sessions has been affected by a variety of factors, the most significant being the dramatic growth in Alaskan oil revenues. With population growth doubling over the past fifteen years, the Alaska legislature has had to respond to a myriad of social problems. In addition, being a relatively young state, Alaska is still faced with developing a body of law of its own.

Another factor that points to the need for deadlines is the build-up of bills on the floor of the Alaska Legislature at the end of session. For example, out of the 201 bills passed by the Alaska Senate during the 21-week 1980 session, 53% passed out during the last four weeks of the session.

The flow of legislation through the process also affects session length. The majority of bills considered by the Alaska Legislature are introduced during the first several weeks of the session, but few are passed out of either chamber. For instance, in 1979 during the first five weeks of the session 76% of the total number of Senate bills had been introduced, but the Senate had only passed out 7.8% of the total number of Senate and House bills passed out that session. During the 1980 session, the same pattern is evident. Fifty-two percent of the total number of bills had been introduced by the fifth week, but only 5.5% of the total number of bills passed had been passed out. In addition, out of 792 bills introduced in 1979, only 102 were prefiled. In 1980, 833 bills were introduced and 51 were prefiled by members of the Alaska Legislature.

By instituting a series of deadlines, encouraging prefiling, and establishing committee time in the early part of the session when floor work is not particularly heavy, the Alaska Legislature can help reduce committee and floor jams near the end of the session and place some controls on the length of the session.

Deadlines for introduction and action on bills are the most common techniques adopted by legislatures for handling bill flow and scheduling work. Three-fourths of the 99 state legislative bodies employ deadlines for introduction of bills, and one-half also provide deadlines for committee action on bills. Colorado, Illinois, and South Dakota have the detailed schedule of deadlines outlined in the recommendation.

Deadlines can be set up either formally by rule or informally enforced by leadership. In order to be effective, deadlines need to be established systematically and adhered to. If followed, deadlines will enable the legislature to schedule and plan the session.

Most legislatures permit prefiling of legislation, and in several states leadership refers prefiled bills to committee before the session begins. This enables committees to begin work immediately when the session starts. Prefiling by itself is not always effective, but when coupled with a deadline system, such as in Florida, it can be a very effective device. The Florida House makes the first day of the session the deadline for all member bills, effectively requiring all bills to be prefiled. Incumbent members may prefile bills immediately following sine die adjournment of the previous session. If an incumbent is defeated for reelection, those prefiled bills are dead unless cosponsored by a reelected legislator. New members may begin prefiling immediately following the November organizational session. Prefiled bills are referred to committees by leadership and the committees, which are appointed and begin work in November, study, amend and act on bills up until the opening day of the session in April. Between the first and second session committees actively work on carry-over legislation.

Other states have encouraged prefiling by placing a limit on the number of bills a member can introduce during the session. For example, Montana lawmakers may introduce only five bills once the session has begun. However, the limit does not apply to prefiled bills prior to the session, interim committee bills, state agency bills or resolutions. In Colorado, the joint rules specify a six bill limitation for the number of measures a member can introduce during session. Detailed deadlines for various legislative actions also are set. To allow for emergencies, a Committee on Delayed Bills is established in each house. The committee, composed of the presiding officer and two party floor leaders, can approve late introductions. Appropriations bills are excluded from the limitation.

Increased committee time in the early part of the session can help expedite the process. This mechanism enables committees to work uninterrupted when floor activity is generally slow. Therefore, committees can act on more bills earlier. Increased committee time in the early part of the session can be scheduled in a variety of ways. For instance, from January to March in Connecticut, floor sessions are held only once a week and the rest of the time is devoted to committee work. Iowa utilizes the first four to eight weeks of session for all committee work. Only committee meetings are held in the Pennsylvania House in January and February, after which floor action alternates weekly with committee meetings. Nebraska and the Kentucky and Pennsylvania Senates utilize a recess period for increased committee meeting time.

## B. Committee Process

Background: An effective and efficient legislature depends upon a strong committee system. Committees are the workhorses of the legislature, mini-legislatures, performing policy and program formulation and control. Committee chairmen play a key management function in directing the committee process. The success of a committee system depends significantly on how chairmen plan and manage committee time. Staff also play an important role in the committee process by providing information and analysis to committees -- the keys to informed decision making. Finally, committees serve as the



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RESEARCH AGENCY

P.O. Box Y, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100  
Mail Stop 3100  
(907) 465-3991

January 14, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis

FROM: Sandi Depue *SD*  
Administrative Officer

RE: Number of Bills Passed By the Alaska Legislature During the Last  
Two Weeks of Session: 1985-1987  
Research Request 88.113

You requested that this agency determine how many bills were passed by the House of Representatives, Senate and both houses, on a daily basis, during the last two weeks of legislative sessions. You requested this information for the past three years.

Attached are bar graphs for 1985, 1986 and 1987 which show the number of bills passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate and both houses.<sup>1</sup> The bar delineating passage of a bill by both houses corresponds to the date a bill (passed by both houses during the final 14 days) passed the nonoriginating house, i.e., the date a House Bill passed the Senate and vice versa. A table showing the same information is also attached.

If you have any questions or need further information, please let me know.

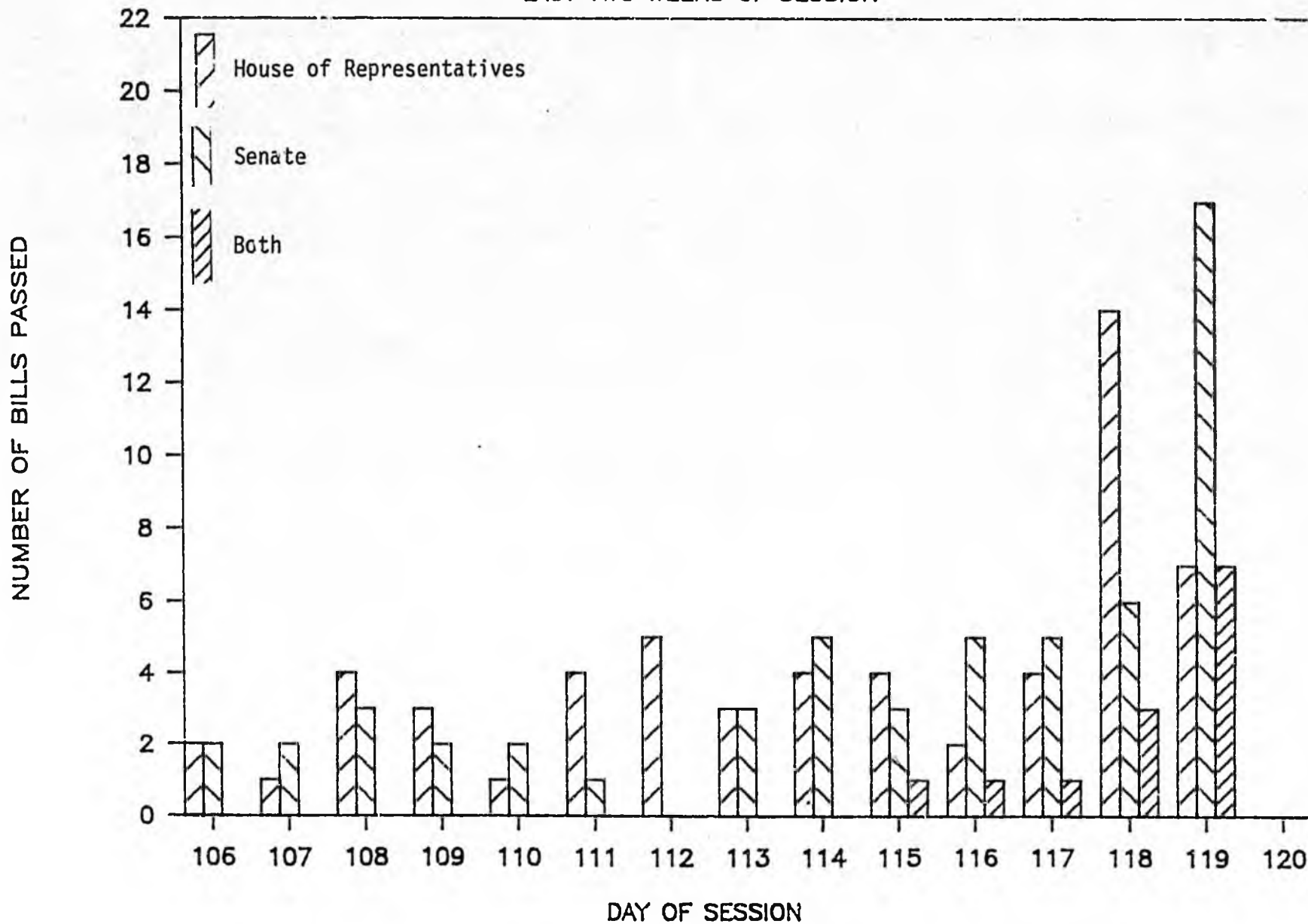
Attachments

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<sup>1</sup>The 1987 Legislature was in session two days which were both considered the 120th day. Both of these days are included on our graphs and in our table as the 120th day.

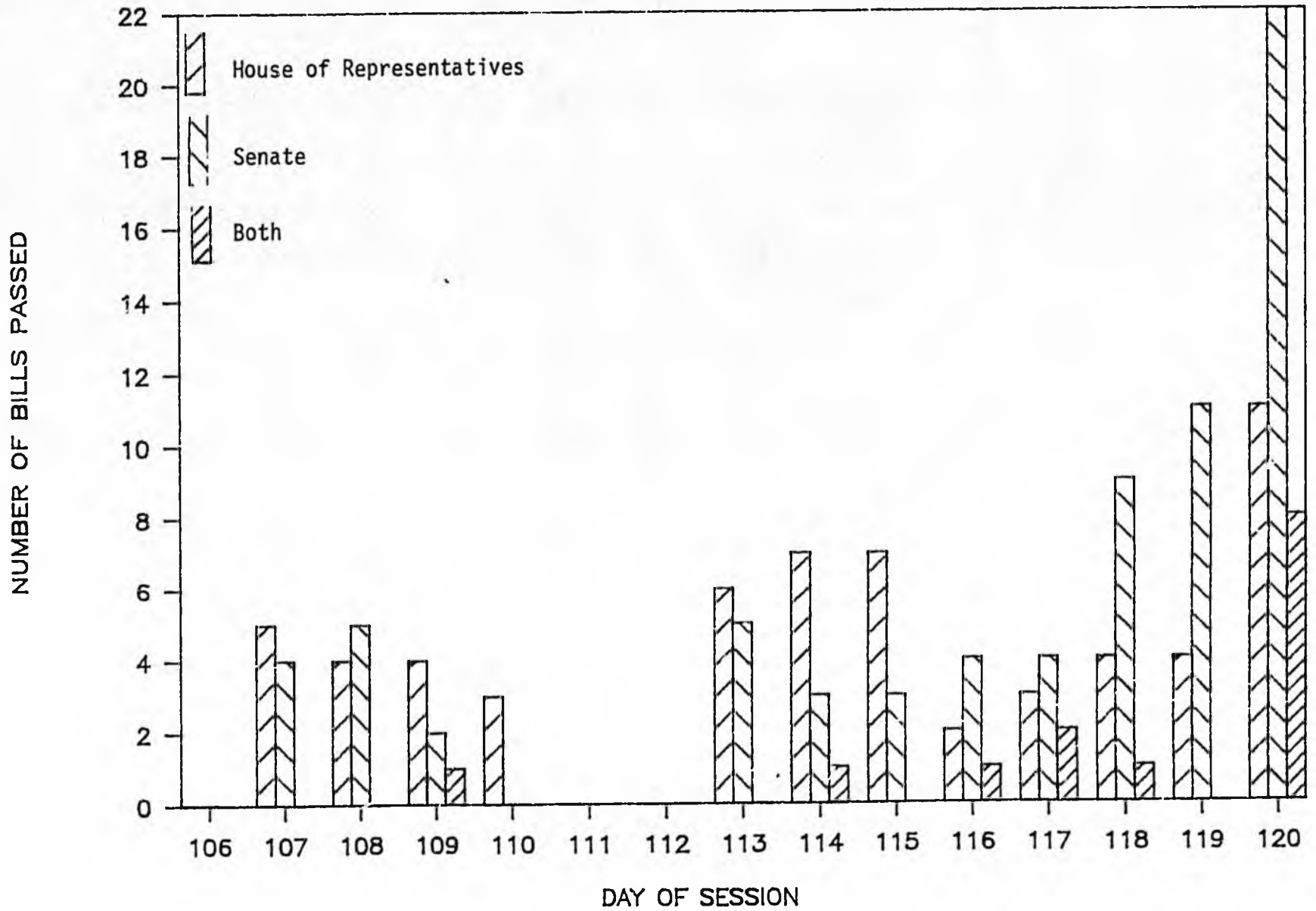
# BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE — 1985

LAST TWO WEEKS OF SESSION



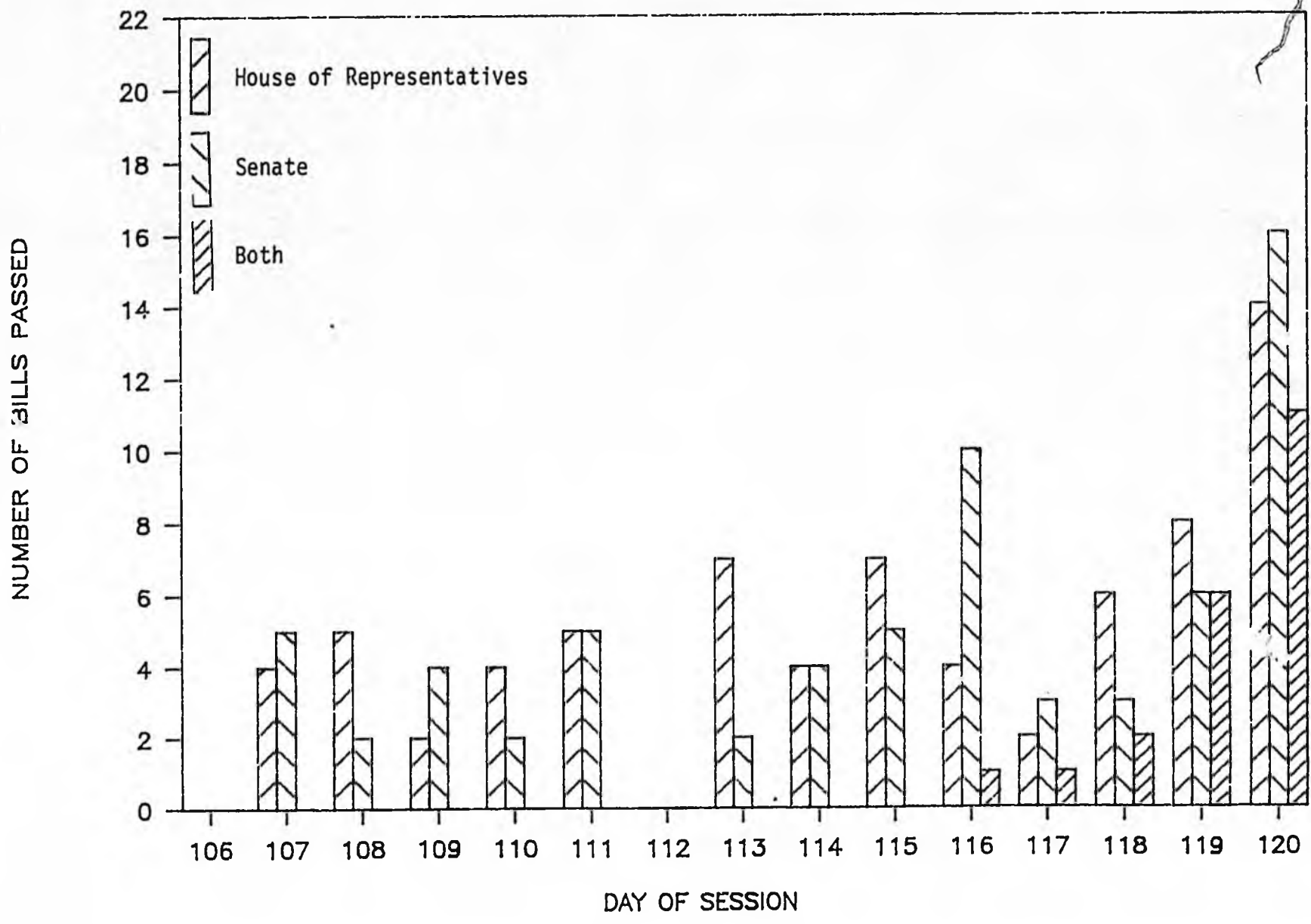
# BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE — 1986

LAST TWO WEEKS OF SESSION



# BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE — 1987

LAST TWO WEEKS OF SESSION



BILLS PASSED BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE  
 DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF SESSION  
 1985-1987

1985				1986				1987			
DAY	BILLS PASSED BY			DAY	BILLS PASSED BY			DAY	BILLS PASSED BY		
	HOUSE	SENATE	BOTH		HOUSE	SENATE	BOTH		HOUSE	SENATE	BOTH
106	2.0	2.0		106				106			
107	1.0	2.0		107	5.0	4.0		107	4.0	5.0	
108	4.0	3.0		108	4.0	5.0		108	5.0	2.0	
109	3.0	2.0		109	4.0	2.0	1.0	109	2.0	4.0	
110	1.0	2.0		110	3.0			110	4.0	2.0	
111	4.0	1.0		111				111	5.0	5.0	
112	5.0			112				112			
113	3.0	3.0		113	6.0	5.0		113	7.0	2.0	
114	4.0	5.0		114	7.0	3.0	1.0	114	4.0	4.0	
115	4.0	3.0	1.0	115	7.0	3.0		115	7.0	5.0	
116	2.0	5.0	1.0	116	2.0	4.0	1.0	116	4.0	10.0	1.0
117	4.0	5.0	1.0	117	3.0	4.0	2.0	117	2.0	3.0	1.0
118	14.0	6.0	3.0	118	4.0	9.0	1.0	118	6.0	3.0	2.0
119	7.0	17.0	7.0	119	4.0	11.0		119	8.0	6.0	6.0
120				120	11.0	22.0	8.0	120	14.0	16.0	11.0
TOTAL	58.0	56.0	13.0		60.0	72.0	14.0		72.0	67.0	21.0
AVERAGE	4.1	4.0	0.9		4.3	5.1	1.0		5.1	4.8	1.5

Prepared by the House Research Agency, January 13, 1987, (100287-12; 88-113A).



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RESEARCH AGENCY

P.O. Box Y, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100  
Mail Stop 3100  
(907) 465-3991

January 22, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis

ATTN: Jim Nordlund

FROM: Sandi Depue *JMD*  
Administrative Officer

RE: Number of Bills Passed By the Alaska Legislature During the Last  
Two Weeks of Session: 1985-1987  
Research Request 88.113 (Supplemental Information)

You asked our agency to determine the total number of bills and resolutions which passed the House of Representatives, the Senate, and both houses during the 1985, 1986 and 1987 legislative sessions. You also asked how many bills and resolutions passed each house, and both houses, during each of the last 14 days of the sessions.

The attached tables provide this information and include the number of bills and resolutions passed by each house detailed by House Bills, Senate Bills, House Resolutions, and Senate Resolutions. The tables also provide daily percentages and a cumulative 14 day percentage of total bills passed in each category.

House Research Agency memorandum 87.003 concerning scheduling of bills is also attached.

I hope you find this information useful.

Attachments

Table 1  
 Number of Bills and Resolutions Passed During Legislative Session  
 Fourteenth Alaska Legislature - 1st Session - 1985

	HOUSE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				SENATE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				BOTH NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED			
	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR
Session Total	110	48	38	8	59	83	17	20	59	48	17	8
Day 106	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 107	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Day 108	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 109	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 110	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Day 111	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Day 112	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 113	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 114	4	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
Day 115	3	1	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0
Day 116	1	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Day 117	3	1	2	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Day 118	10	4	1	0	2	4	0	1	1	2	0	0
Day 119	1	6	0	0	16	1	0	1	4	3	0	0
Day 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Day Totals	42	16	10	1	27	29	2	9	6	7	1	0
Daily Percent of Total												
Day 106	1.8	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 107	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 108	1.8	4.2	5.3	0.0	1.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 109	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 110	0.9	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	2.4	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 111	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 112	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 113	1.8	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 114	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.6	5.9	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0
Day 115	2.7	2.1	5.3	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	10.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0
Day 116	0.9	2.1	5.3	0.0	1.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0
Day 117	2.7	2.1	5.3	0.0	6.8	1.2	0.0	5.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 118	9.1	8.3	2.6	0.0	3.4	4.8	0.0	5.0	1.7	4.2	0.0	0.0
Day 119	0.9	12.5	0.0	0.0	27.1	1.2	0.0	5.0	6.8	6.3	0.0	0.0
Day 120	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14 Day Totals	38.2	33.3	26.3	12.5	45.8	34.9	11.8	45.0	10.2	14.6	5.9	0.0

Note: HB - House Bills  
 SB - Senate Bills  
 HR - House Resolutions  
 SR - Senate Resolutions

Table 2  
 Number of Bills and Resolutions Passed During Legislative Session  
 Fourteenth Alaska Legislature - 2nd Session - 1986

	HOUSE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				SENATE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				BOTH NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED			
	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR
Session Total	144	64	24	19	90	94	15	32	90	64	15	19
Day 106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 107	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Day 108	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 109	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Day 110	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 113	6	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 114	4	3	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0
Day 115	5	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 116	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Day 117	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Day 118	1	3	0	1	6	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
Day 119	0	4	0	1	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 120	1	10	1	2	22	0	3	0	6	2	0	0
14 Day Totals	32	28	4	4	44	28	3	5	8	6	0	1
Daily Percent of Total												
Day 106	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 107	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 108	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 109	2.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Day 110	1.4	1.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 111	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 112	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 113	4.2	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 114	2.8	4.7	4.2	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	9.4	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Day 115	3.5	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 116	0.7	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.1	0.0	3.1	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Day 117	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 118	0.7	4.7	0.0	5.3	6.7	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	5.3
Day 119	0.0	6.3	0.0	5.3	11.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 120	0.7	15.6	4.2	10.5	24.4	0.0	20.0	0.0	6.7	3.1	0.0	0.0
14 Day Totals	22.2	43.8	16.7	21.1	48.9	29.8	20.0	15.6	8.9	9.4	0.0	5.3

Note: HB - House Bills  
 SB - Senate Bills  
 HR - House Resolutions  
 SR - Senate Resolutions

Table 3  
 Number of Bills and Resolutions Passed During Legislative Session  
 Fifteenth Alaska Legislature - 1st Session - 1987

	HOUSE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				SENATE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED				BOTH NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED			
	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR	HB	SB	HR	SR
Session Total	106	47	41	18	57	106	22	48	57	47	22	18
Day 106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 107	4	0	2	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0
Day 108	4	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 109	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Day 110	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Day 111	4	1	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Day 112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 113	7	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Day 114	4	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Day 115	6	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 116	3	1	1	0	3	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
Day 117	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
Day 118	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	1
Day 119	1	7	0	0	4	2	0	1	1	5	0	0
Day 120	4	10	2	0	11	5	0	0	8	3	0	0
14 Day Totals	45	27	13	1	22	45	3	9	11	10	0	1
Daily Percent of Total												
Day 106	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 107	3.8	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 108	3.8	2.1	4.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 109	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 110	2.8	2.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	1.9	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 111	3.8	2.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 112	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 113	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 114	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 115	5.7	2.1	2.4	0.0	1.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 116	2.8	2.1	2.4	0.0	5.3	6.6	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Day 117	0.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0
Day 118	1.9	8.5	7.3	5.6	3.5	0.9	4.5	4.2	1.8	2.1	0.0	5.6
Day 119	0.9	14.9	0.0	0.0	7.0	1.9	0.0	2.1	1.8	10.6	0.0	0.0
Day 120	3.8	21.3	4.9	0.0	19.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	14.0	6.4	0.0	0.0
14 Day Totals	42.5	57.4	31.7	5.6	38.6	42.5	13.6	18.8	19.3	21.3	0.0	5.6

Note: HB - House Bills  
 SB - Senate Bills  
 HR - House Resolutions  
 SR - Senate Resolutions



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RESEARCH AGENCY

P.O. Box Y, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100  
Mail Stop 3100  
(907) 465-3991

July 22, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Max Gruenberg

ATTN: Jim Nordland

FROM: Katherine Hazard *KH*  
Legislative Analyst

RE: Scheduling Bills through the Legislature  
Research Request 87-003

You asked our agency to provide information on how other state legislatures schedule bills in order to prevent logjamming of bills during the last few days of the session. You asked specifically for information about these legislative rules in states which have a limit on session length. You also requested information on the number of bills passed during the last two days of the Alaska legislative session in 1986.

Bill Scheduling Rules in Other States

During the last two decades, the number of bills introduced in most state legislatures has increased. The attached graph shows that the number of bills introduced in the Alaska Legislature increased substantially through the 1960s and 70s. Since 1981 there has been a downward trend in the number of bills introduced in the Alaska Legislature.

As of 1983, 37 states had an effective limit on the length of legislative sessions: 30 states had a limit in statutory or constitutional provisions; 1 had a limit proclaimed in the legislative rules; and 6 states had indirect limits on session length through restrictions on legislators pay, per diem, or daily allowance. Only 13 states had no limit on length of the legislative session.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The amendment to the Alaska Constitution, Article II, Section 8, which limits the legislative session length, was passed in the general election held on November 6, 1984; thus, in the statistics from 1983, Alaska is included as a state with no session limit.

Because of the constraints on session length and in response to the increase in legislation, several states have adopted rules to assure the timely movement of bills through committees and/or through each house in order to prevent logjamming of bills toward the end of the session. I spoke with legislative staff in six states with such rules: Connecticut, Illinois, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, and North Dakota. Some of the states schedule bills by setting deadlines for transmittal from one house to the other; others establish deadlines for reporting bills out of committee. These rules are described below based on conversations with staff in the respective legislatures.

Connecticut. Rules of the Connecticut legislature include bill submission deadlines and deadlines for the movement of bills through committees. In Connecticut, legislators submit bill and resolution proposals to the legislative commissioner's office in informal language. These are read on the floor and assigned to committees. In 1985 members of the general assembly could submit bill and resolution proposals through January 23rd. Additional information or documentation to the committees needed to be submitted by February 1 in 1985.

Fully drafted bills may be introduced only by committees. In 1985, deadlines for committees to submit drafting requests to the legislative commissioner's office ranged from February 19th to February 28th depending upon the committee. Deadlines for Finance, Revenue and Bonding; Judiciary; and Appropriations Committees were last. Deadlines for drafting requests on proposed bills and resolutions on which hearings are held are later yet; these request deadlines are 10 days prior to the date by which bills must be reported out of committee.

There are also deadlines for reporting bills out of committees. In 1985, deadlines ranged from March 26th through May 8th. Bills not reported out of committee are deemed failed. However, bills may be forced out of committee if: (1) the speaker of the house and the president of the senate certify that the legislation should be acted on by the general assembly; or (2) a majority of the members of the house of origin petition the clerk. There are no deadlines governing transmittal of bills from one house to the other.

Illinois. The Illinois legislature adjourns on or before June 30th. All substantive bills must pass out of committee before the end of the first Friday in May. If a bill has not moved out of committee by this date, it is dead unless the deadline is suspended by a two-thirds vote. Bills may also be petitioned out of committee. Bills must be out of the appropriations committee by the second Friday in May. There is no deadline for transmittal to the other house.

Colorado. The Colorado legislature has rules governing the dates for movement of bills through committee, to the floor, and for transmittal from one house to the other. However, there are no deadlines for appropriations or revenue bills. The Colorado legislature has alternating long and short sessions, with the long session following election years. The calendar for 1986 (a short session) is described below.

Jan 8: begin session  
Jan 17: bill drafting deadline  
Feb 1: deadline for introducing bills  
Feb 21: bills must be out of committee in the house of origin  
Mar 3: deadline for passage of bills in the house of origin  
Mar 18: bills must be reported out of committee in the second house  
Mar 28: deadline for passage of bills in the second house  
Apr 29: reconvene for adjournment<sup>2</sup>  
May 27: deadline for adjournment.

Iowa. Although Iowa has no limit on the length of legislative sessions expenses are paid for a maximum of 110 legislative days (100 days in even years). The legislative rules scheduling movement of bills through the legislature in Iowa are similar to those in Colorado. There are no deadlines on Appropriations and Ways and Means bills and the majority and minority leaders may co-sponsor a bill at any time. Other bills, however, must move according to the following schedule in even years.

2nd week: deadlines for bill drafting requests; committee chairs may still make requests  
8th week: bills must be out of committee in the house of origin  
9th week: deadline for passage of bills in the house of origin  
11th week: bills must be out of committee in the second house  
12th week: deadline for passage of bills in the second house

Beginning in the 13th week, the legislative bodies address co-sponsored minority and majority bills, conference committee reports, ways and means bills, appropriation bills, unfinished business and other legislative action exempted from the deadlines applicable to most legislation.

According to Diane Bolender, of the Iowa Legislative Service Bureau, this scheduling method is effective and few exceptions are made to the deadlines.

Montana. Montana has a session limit of 90 legislative days. Bills, excepting appropriation and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 45th legislative day of the session. Amendments to these bills must be sent back to the other house by the 70th day. If a bill is not transmitted to the other house by the deadline, it may be transmitted only if there is a two-thirds vote to accept transmittal of the bill by the house to which it is to be transmitted.

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<sup>2</sup>In some legislative sessions, the rules for recessing are suspended and the legislature meets until the adjournment deadline.

In Montana, all appropriations bills originate in the House. Revenue and appropriations bills from the House must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 70th legislative day. Senate amendments to these bills must be transmitted to the House on or before the 85th day. Revenue bills originating in the Senate must be transmitted to the House on or before the 60th legislative day. Amendments from the House to the Senate on Senate revenue bills must be transmitted to the Senate by the 70th legislative day. In addition, several types of legislative action may occur at any time during the session; interum study resolutions; bills repealing, adopting, or amending administrative rules; and joint resolutions advising or requesting a change in administrative rules. Montana has no deadlines for committee reports.

North Dakota. The North Dakota legislature has a session limit of 80 legislative days. Their rules, however, are based on a 60 legislative day session.

After the 10th day, no legislator may introduce more than 3 bills.

After the 15th day, no bills may be introduced.

After the 18th day, no resolutions excepting study resolutions or resolutions regarding the US Constitution may be introduced.

After the 23rd day, any bill with a fiscal note of more than \$5,000 must be moved to the appropriations committee.

By the end of the 31st day, all bills must be reported out of committee.

By the end of the 33rd day: (1) all study resolutions and proposed resolutions regarding the U.S. Constitution must be out of committee; and (2) all bills must be transmitted to the other house.

By the end of the 48th day, all bills must be reported out of committee of the second house.

If a bill is not reported out of committee on schedule, it is pulled out of committee at the deadline and taken to the floor or referred to the appropriations committee as necessary. There is a floor vote upon every bill introduced.

Legislative procedures in North Dakota also differ from those in Alaska in that state agencies (comparable to departments in the State of Alaska) may introduce bills. Most agency bills are first assigned to the Senate because the Senate has fewer bills introduced; this evens out the load somewhat.

In addition to the rules adopted to schedule movement of bills through the legislature, many state legislatures have adopted rules to limit the number of bills introduced. Most states (79 of 99 legislative bodies) have deadlines for bill introduction, as Alaska does for the second session of each legislature. Forty-six legislative bodies have cut-off dates for requesting bill drafts.

Other methods for reducing the number of bills introduced include:

- a skeleton bill system where an outline is submitted to the appropriate committee, and the committee is responsible for having the bill drafted;
- a limit on the number of bills a legislator may introduce; and
- a prohibition on duplication of bill introductions in the two houses.

#### Bills Passed in the Final Days of the Legislative Session

You also requested information about legislative action during the final days of the 1986 Fourteenth Legislature. Thirty-two percent (68 bills) of the bills passed by the House during the second session were passed in the last two days; 34 percent (62 bills) of the bills passed by the Senate during the second session were passed in the last two days. In addition, the House voted on 16 other measures during the last two days: three conference committee substitute bills, five joint resolutions, six concurrent resolutions, and two letters of intent. The Senate voted on 9 other measures: four joint resolutions, four concurrent resolutions, and one Senate resolution.

#### Statistical Summary of Legislation 1985-1986

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	<u>Bills Introduced</u>			<u>Bills Passed</u>			<u>Bills Passed Last 2 Days</u>		
	<u>1st</u> <u>Ses</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Ses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Ses</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Ses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>May 11</u> <u>86</u>	<u>May 12</u> <u>86</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>House</u>	448	262	710	158	208	366	17	51	68
<u>Senate</u>	322	167	489	142	184	326	8	54	62

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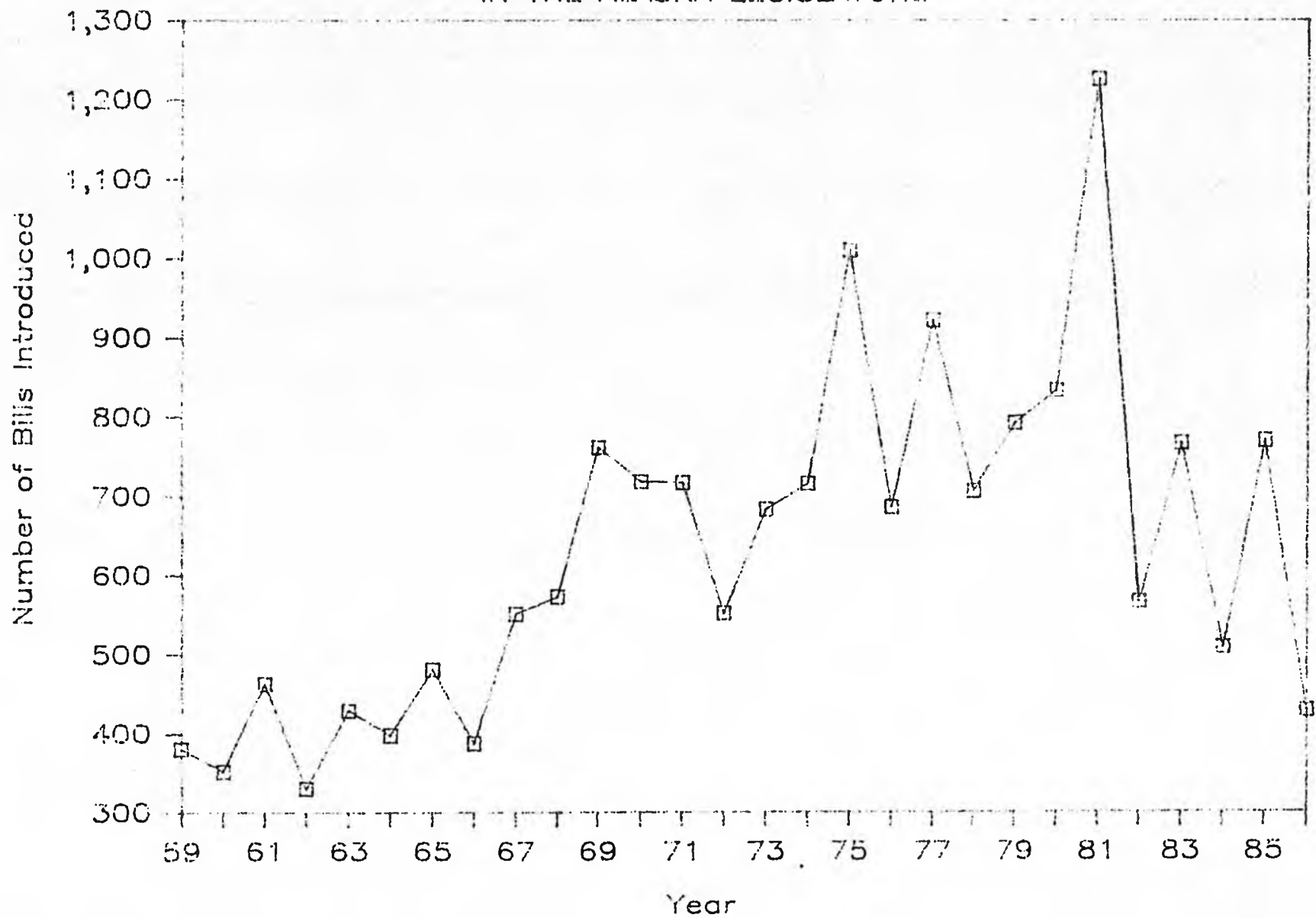
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We requested copies of the legislative rules from the six states discussed in this memorandum. Please let us know if you would like us to forward copies of these rules to you; or if we may provide additional information.

KH

Attachment

# NUMBER OF BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



Prepared by the House Research Agency, July 1986.