

SB

353

WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR



P. O. Box 110001
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 9, 1994

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*The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182*

Dear Mr. President:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to peremptory challenges of jurors in felony criminal proceedings. During jury selection for felony trials, such as for murder, sexual assault, domestic violence, or child abuse, peremptory challenges are used by both prosecutors and defense lawyers to remove potential jurors from the case in an effort to obtain a fair jury to hear the case. But current court rules allow criminal defendants to peremptorily challenge 10 jurors without stating a cause, while prosecutors are only permitted to challenge six on this basis. This difference in the court rules balances the scales unfairly, tilting jury selection in favor of criminal defendants.

This bill will amend Alaska Rule of Criminal Procedure 24(d) to give prosecutors and defendants the same number of peremptory challenges in jury trials in felony criminal cases. This bill will help level the playing field in criminal prosecutions when trying to pick a fair jury to hear a criminal case. Also, allowing both sides six peremptory challenges may reduce the cost of criminal trials by reducing the time needed for jury selection.

I urge your favorable action on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter J. Hickel".

Walter J. Hickel
Governor

FISCAL NOT

No. 4

Bill Version: SB 353

(S) Publish Date: 3-9-94

**STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act Relating to Peremptory Challenges
of Jurors in Felony Criminal Cases." BRU: Office of Public Advocacy
 Component: Office of Public Advocacy
 Sponsor: _____
 Requistor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 43

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of current year (FY94) cost: none

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Brant McGee, Public Advocate Phone: 274-1684
 Division: Office of Public Advocacy Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usery Date: 2/10/94
 Agency: Administration

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(Rev. 10/93) H 2/16/94

FISCAL NOT

No. 3

**STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version: SR 353

(S) Publish Date: 3-9-94

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act Relating to Peremptory Challenges
of Jurors in Felony Criminal Cases." BRJ: Public Defender Agency
 Component: Public Defender Agency
 Sponsor: _____
 Requestor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of current year (FY94) cost: none

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: John Salemi, Public Defender Phone: 264-4400
 Division: Public Defender Agency Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usura Date: 2/17/94
 Agency: Administration

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL

No. 2
 Bill Version: SB.353
 (S) Publish Date: 3-9-94

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: Relating to Peremptory Challenges of Jurors in BRU: Alaska State Troopers
felony Proceedings Component: Detachments
 Sponsor: Rules by Request
 Requestor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 799

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<small>Revenue Code</small>						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 94) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Lee Ann Lucas Phone: 465-4322
 Division: Office of the Commissioner Date: 2/16/94
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: _____
 Agency: Richard L. Burton, Dept. of Public Safety

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: SB 353

(S) Publish Date: 3-9-94

Revision Date: February 15, 1994

Department Affected: Department of Law

Title: "...relating to peremptory challenges of jurors in felony criminal proceedings."

BRU: Prosecution

Sponsor: Rules/Request of Governor

Component: All

Requestor: Governor's Office

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0085 through 0090

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

OPERATING	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND &						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING:

1002 Federal						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: -0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
Please see the attached analysis.

Richard I. Pegues

Prepared by: Richard I. Pegues, Director

Phone: 465-3672

Division: Administrative Services Division

Date: February 15, 1994

Approved by Commissioner: Bruce M. Bortolho, Attorney General

Agency: Department of Law

Date: February 15, 1994

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. _____

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION:

This bill amends the Alaska Rule of Criminal Procedure 24(d) to provide that each side in a felony criminal proceeding is allowed six peremptory challenges. Rule 24(d) currently allows the defense ten peremptory challenges and allows the prosecution six peremptory challenges. This rule, which is intended to help level the playing field in criminal prosecutions when trying to select a fair jury to hear a criminal case, will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Law. We also note that allowing both sides six peremptory challenges may reduce the cost of criminal trials by reducing the time needed for jury selection.