

HJR

1

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)  
Date Referred to Committee: January 13, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary  
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3/3/98

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HJR 1

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

LIMIT LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO 90 DAYS

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of a regular session.

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_  the same title  
 a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 fiscal note(s) LAA  fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) GOV  zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Jeannette James</i>			✓	✓
<i>[Signature]</i>		✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>				✓
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Jeannette James*



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Official Business

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### REPRESENTATIVES NORMAN ROKEBERG AND JERRY SANDERS

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of a regular session

House Joint Resolution 1 proposes an amendment to Alaska's Constitution that would limit regular legislative sessions to 90 consecutive calendar days. If this resolution passes, the proposed constitutional amendment would be presented to the voters at the next general election. The voters would then decide the fate of this proposal.

Ninety days is more than enough time for the Legislature to complete its business. In an era of decreasing budgets, reducing the session by thirty days would save state funds. As an example, the amount expended for session per diem would decrease.

Prior to 1984, the Legislature had no time limit on the number of days it could remain in session. The voters approved the present 120 day limit on November 6, 1984. Since that time, it has been amply proven that the Alaska Legislature can operate within a time limit. It is now time to shorten that session limit so that the business of the people can be addressed in a reasonable manner within a reasonable time limit.

Ed.1:2/11/97



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS  
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1  
PREPARED BY REPRESENTATIVE NORMAN ROKEBERG and  
REPRESENTATIVE JERRY SANDERS

Section 1. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska limiting legislative sessions to 90 consecutive calendar days.

Section 2. Instructs that this proposed amendment be placed before Alaskan voters for consideration at the next general election.

Ed 1:2/11/97



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

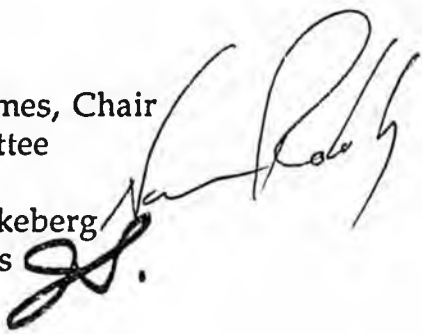
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Juneau, AK 99801-1182

ZAEER

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Jeannette James, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Norman Rokeberg  
Representative Jerry Sanders 

DATE: February 11, 1997

RE: HJR 1 - Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of a regular session.

We would request that HJR 1 be scheduled for a committee hearing. Attached are the following:

- a. Copy of the resolution
- b. Sponsor Statement
- c. Sectional Analysis
- d. Additional Information

We have not requested fiscal notes as we understand that the new procedure, as agreed to by Leadership and Administration, is that the committee involved is to request fiscal notes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

# JUNEAU EMPIRE

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*Juneau Empire, Sunday, January 26, 1997*

## Shorter session, better government

**A**mong the more pertinent pieces of legislation filed this session is a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would limit the 120-day session to 90 days. If passed, House Joint Resolution No. 1 would require a vote of the people.

It's a worthy concept that keeps surfacing, especially with legislators who live elsewhere, and we think it merits discussion.

Here's why: Every year, Christmas and New Year holidays are very nearly ruined for people preparing to return to Juneau for the session. First, they must wind down their duties and close up their offices before Christmas. Then, they must pack up their belongings and hit the road around the New Year to make it to Juneau in time to settle in for the session. New legislators must be in Juneau by about Jan. 4 so they can take part in orientations. Some legislators and staff members must catch a ferry. Many of them arrive in the capital exhausted, having had their family time over the holidays completely disrupted.

This has spawned an annual sense of dread among many involved in the Legislature, a dread that isn't easily dissolved by the friendliness of Juneau. As one staff member put it, they feel as though they are gerbils on a treadmill: "We get here (Juneau) with a bad attitude."

Rep. Norm Rokeberg and Rep. Jerry Sanders are putting their efforts behind the resolution, the very one that died of neglect last session. Rokeberg argues the Legislature could start later, perhaps in February or early March. So much of what the Legislature does must wait until the March budget forecast from the Department of Revenue, so why not wait to get started until some of the real nuts-and-bolts work can be done?

Years ago, the people of Alaska became frustrated with the Legislature when sessions-without-limits dragged on until June or July. Thus, the 120-day limit was passed by voters. We think an even shorter session would be just as responsive, more cost-effective for the people of Alaska, and possibly even more productive. Other states do it.

Although Juneau would feel an economic impact, the perceived need to move the capital to Anchorage or elsewhere would become far less important.

The idea of a shorter session is also in line with the concept of a citizen-statesman government, one that has legislators spending more time in their districts, working in their own professions and being available to listen to their constituents. And that's a capital idea that would benefit the state as a whole.

1 Feb 1997

FAIRBANKS

# Daily News - Miner

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Editorial Page Editor

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

### Set a 90-day legislative session

Among the more pertinent pieces of legislation filed this session is a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would limit the 120-day session to 90 days. It passed, House Joint Resolution No. 1 would require a vote of the people.

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# Alaska's Constitution

## A CITIZEN'S GUIDE

Third Edition • 1992

*Alaska Legislative Research Agency • Gordon S. Harrison*

additional \$500 per year. Also, legislators may claim \$65 per day for each day spent on legislative business during the interim.

### Section 8. Regular Sessions

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.

The first sentence of this section provides for annual sessions of the legislature. The majority of states have annual sessions, and in those where the constitution provides for biennial sessions (a session every two years), a special session during the "off" year is common. The ability to meet annually, in order to keep abreast of current developments and administrative activity, is generally considered necessary for a legislature to be an effective policy-making body and to avoid being dominated by the executive branch.

The legislature has changed the beginning of the regular session to the second Monday in January at 10:00 a.m., except following a gubernatorial election year, when it is the third Monday in January at 10:00 a.m. (AS 24.25.090). The later date following a gubernatorial election gives a new governor an extra week to prepare for the opening of the session.

The second sentence establishes a limit of 120 days after convening for each regular session (with one ten-day extension if agreed to by two-thirds of each house). This limit was imposed by a constitutional amendment ratified by the voters in 1984. Until that time, the constitution did not limit the length of sessions. The framers of the constitution adopted the progressive view that the legislature should not be rushed in its deliberations, as the business of modern state government is too complex to be transacted in hurried,

## Article II

in frequent sessions. (About two-thirds of state constitutions impose some limit on the length of sessions.) Delegates feared that constraints on the length (and frequency) of sessions might result in ill-conceived or imprudent measures as well as a legislative disadvantage *vis-a-vis* the executive.

Over the years, sessions lasted progressively longer. Initially, they ran about 70 days; by the early 1980s, sessions over twice that length were common. Alaskans both inside and outside the legislature grew increasingly skeptical that all of this time was spent wisely and productively. In 1978, the legislature (stopping short of adopting an amendment) asked Alaskans to cast an advisory vote on limiting the length of regular sessions to 120 days. The proposition asked voters whether a constitutional amendment to that effect should be placed before them in the 1980 election. The voters responded strongly in the affirmative. Three years later the legislature acted to put an amendment before the electorate in the 1984 general election that would limit the session to 120 days. It was ratified by a large majority (150,999 to 46,099).

In May 1986, at the end of the 120th day of the second regular session of the fourteenth legislature, legislative leaders stopped the clock in order to complete business before the adjournment deadline. A suit was filed challenging the legality of the 29 laws passed after midnight. The Alaska Supreme Court rejected the challenge, holding that the day the legislature convenes should not be counted against the 120-day limit, so the legislature has, in effect, a total of 121 days in which to transact business (*Alaska Christian Bible Institute v. State*, 772 P.2d 1079, 1989).

The call for deadlines for scheduling session work, found in the last sentence of this section, is an effort to mitigate the perennial problem of the "logjam" of legislation at the end of the session (most of the bills that pass the legislature are enacted in the closing days of the session, often in long, wearisome meetings which are not conducive to the studious deliberation of each item).

At the end of the second regular session of the seventeenth legislature (1991 - 1992), both houses adjourned before work was completed on several appropriation bills. In this case it was too late to extend the regular session according to the provision in this section, so the legislature called a special session to finish its business.

# THE BOOK OF THE STATES

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**Table 3.2**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS**

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions				Special sessions		
	Year	Legislature convenes		Limitation on length of session (u)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
		Month	Day				
Alabama .....	Annual	Jan. Apr. Feb.	2nd Tues. (h) 3rd Tues. (e, d) 1st Tues. (e)	30 L. in 105 C	No	Yes (f)	12 L. in 30 C
Alaska .....	Annual	Jan. Jan.	2nd Mon. 3rd Mon. (g)	120 C (h)	By 2/3 vote of members	Yes (i)	30 C
Arizona .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(j)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (r)	None
Arkansas .....	Biennial- odd year	Jan.	2nd Mon.	60 C (h)	No	Yes (f,k)	(k)
California .....	(l)	Jan.	1st Mon. (d)	None	No	No	None
Colorado .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	120 C	By request, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (i)	None
Connecticut .....	Annual (m)	Jan. Feb.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (n) Wed. after 1st Mon. (n)	(p)	Yes (q)	(q)	None (r)
Delaware .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	June 30	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Florida .....	Annual	Feb.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (d)	60 C (h)	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (f)	20 C (h)
Georgia .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	40 L.	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (r)	(s)
Hawaii .....	Annual	Jan.	3rd Wed.	60 L. (h)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L. (h)
Idaho .....	Annual	Jan.	Mon. on or nearest 9th day	None	No	No	20 C
Illinois .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (r)	None
Indiana .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (d, t)	odd-60 L. or Apr. 30, even-30 L. or Mar. 15	No	No	30 L. or 40 C
Iowa .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(u)	By petition, 2/3 members, both houses	Yes (f)	None
Kansas .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	odd-None, even-90 C (h)	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kentucky .....	Biennial- even year	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (d)	60 L. (v)	No	No	None
Louisiana .....	Annual	Mar. Apr.	last Mon. (d, n) last Mon. (m, o)	odd-60 L. in 85 C, even-30 L. in 45 C	By petition, majority, each house	Yes (i)	30 C
Maine .....	(l,m)	Dec. Jan.	1st Wed. (b) Wed. after 1st Tues. (o)	3rd Wed. of June (h) 3rd Wed. of April (h)	Joint call, presiding officers, with consent of of majority of members of each political party, each house	Yes (r)	None
Maryland .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	90 C (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	30 C
Massachusetts .....	Annual	Jan.	1st Wed.	(w)	By petition (s)	Yes	None
Michigan .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed. (d)	None	No	No	None
Minnesota .....	(y)	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (n)	120 L. or 1st Mon. after 3rd Sat. in May (y)	No	Yes	None

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions				Special sessions		
	Year	Legislature convenes		Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
		Month	Day				
Mississippi .....	Annual	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	125 C (h, z); 90C (h, z)	No	No	None
Missouri .....	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	May 30	By petition, 3/4 members, each house	Yes	30 C (aa)
Montana .....	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	1st Mon.	90 L	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Nebraska .....	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	odd-90 L (h); even-60 L (h)	By petition, 2/3 members	Yes	None
Nevada .....	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	3rd Mon.	60 C (u)	No	No	20 C (u)
New Hampshire .....	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Tues. (d)	45 L	By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes	15 L (u)
New Jersey .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
New Mexico .....	Annual (m)	Jan.	3rd Tues.	odd-60 C; even-30 C	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (i)	30 C
New York .....	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	None	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (i)	None
North Carolina .....	(y)	Jan.	3rd Wed. after 2nd Mon. (n)	None	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes	None
North Dakota .....	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	Tues. after Jan. 1, but not later than Jan. 11 (d)	80 L (bb)	No	Yes	None
Ohio .....	Annual	Jan.	1st Mon.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Oklahoma .....	Annual	Feb.	1st Mon. (cc)	160 C	By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (i)	None
Oregon .....	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	2nd Mon. after 1st Tues.	None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Pennsylvania .....	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues.	None	By petition, majority each house	No	None
Rhode Island .....	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues.	60 L (u)	No	No	None
South Carolina .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues. (d)	1st Thurs. in June (h)	No	Yes	None
South Dakota .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	odd-40 L; even-35 L	No	No	None
Tennessee .....	Annual	Jan.	(dd)	90 L (u)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	10 L (u)
Texas .....	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	2nd Tues.	140 C	No	No	30 C
Utah .....	Annual	Jan.	3rd Mon.	45 C	No	No	30 C (ee)
Vermont .....	(y)	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (n)	None	No	Yes	None
Virginia .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	odd-30 C (h); even-60 C (h)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Washington .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	odd-105 C; even-60 C	By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 C
West Virginia .....	Annual	Feb. Jan.	2nd Wed. (e, d) 2nd Wed. (e)	60 C (h)	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (ii)	None
Wisconsin .....	Annual (gg)	Jan.	1st Mon. (n)	None	No	No	None

See footnotes at end of table

## LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions				Special sessions			
	Year	Month	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session	
Wyoming .....	Annual (m)	Jan. Feb.	2nd Tues. (tt) 3rd Mon. (tt)	odd-40 L; even-20 L	No	Yes	None	
Dist. of Columbia .....	(hh)	Jan.	2nd day	None				
American Samoa .....	Annual	Jan. July	2nd Mon. 2nd Mon.	45 L 45 L	No	No	None	
Guam .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (tt)	None	No	No	None	
No. Mariana Islands .....	Annual	(jj)	(d, jj)	90 L (jj)	Upon request of presiding officers, both houses	Yes (i)	10 C	
Puerto Rico .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	Apr. 30 (h)	No	No	20 C	
U.S. Virgin Islands .....	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	No	No	None	

Sources: State constitutions and statutes.

Note: Some legislatures will also reconvene after normal session to consider bills vetoed by governor. Connecticut—if governor vetoes any bill, secretary of state must reconvene General Assembly on second Monday after the last day on which governor is either authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill with his objections, whichever occurs first; General Assembly must adjourn *sine die* not later than three days after its reconvening. Hawaii—legislature may reconvene on 45th day after adjournment *sine die*, in special session, without call. Louisiana—legislature meets in a maximum five-day veto session on the 40th day after final adjournment. Missouri—if governor returns any bill on or after the fifth day before the last day on which legislature may consider bills (in even-numbered years), legislature automatically reconvenes on first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for a maximum 10 C sessions. New Jersey—legislature meets in special session (without call or petition) to act on bills returned by governor on 45th day after *sine die* adjournment of the regular session; if the second year expires before the 45th day, the day preceding the end of the legislative year. Utah—if 2/3 of the members of each house favor reconvening to consider vetoed bills, a maximum five-day session is set by the presiding officers. Virginia—legislature reconvenes on sixth Wednesday after adjournment for a maximum three-day session (may be extended to seven days upon vote of majority of members elected to each house). Washington—upon petition of 2/3 of the members of each house, legislature meets 45 days after adjournment for a maximum five-day session.

Key:

C — Calendar day

L — Legislative day (in some states called a session day or workday; definition may vary slightly, however, generally refers to any day on which either house of legislature is in session).

(a) Applies to each year unless otherwise indicated.

(b) General election year (quadrennial election year).

(c) Year after quadrennial election.

(d) Legal provision for organizational session prior to stated convening date. Alabama—in the year after quadrennial election, second Tuesday in January for 10 C. California—in the even-numbered general election year, first Monday in December for an organizational session, recess until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year. Florida—in general election year, 14th day after election. Indiana—third Tuesday after first Monday in November. Kentucky—in odd-numbered year, Tuesday after first Monday in January for 10 L. Louisiana—in year after general election, second Monday in January, not to exceed 1 L. Michigan—held in odd-numbered year. New Hampshire—in even-numbered year, first Wednesday in December. North Dakota—in December. South Carolina—in even-numbered year, Tuesday after certification of election of its members for a maximum three-day session. West Virginia—in year after general election, on second Wednesday in January. No. Mariana Islands—in year after general election, second Monday in January.

(e) Other years.

(f) By 2/3 vote each house.

(g) Following a gubernatorial election year.

(h) Session may be extended by vote of members in both houses. Alaska—2/3 vote for 10-day extension. Arkansas—2/3 vote. Florida—3/5 vote. Hawaii—petition of 2/3 membership for maximum 15-day extension. Kansas—2/3 vote. Maine—2/3 vote for maximum 10 L. Maryland—3/5 vote for maximum 30 C. Mississippi—2/3 vote for 30 C extension, no limit on number of extensions. Nebraska—4/5 vote. South Carolina—2/3 vote. Virginia—2/3 vote for 30 C extension. West Virginia—2/3 vote (or if budget bill has not been acted upon three days before session ends, governor issues proclamation extending session). Puerto Rico—joint resolution.

(i) Only if legislature convenes itself. Special sessions called by the legislature are unlimited in scope in Arizona, Georgia, Maine, and New Mexico.

(j) No constitutional or statutory provision; however, legislative rules require that regular sessions adjourn no later than Saturday of the week during which the 100th day of the session falls.

(k) After governor's business has been disposed of, members may remain in session up to 15 C by a 2/3 vote of both houses.

(l) Regular sessions begin after general election. In December of even-numbered year. In California, legislature meets in December for an organizational session, recesses until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year and continues in session until Nov. 30 of next even-numbered year. In Maine, session which begins in December of general election year runs into the following year (odd-numbered); second session begins in next even-numbered year.

(m) Second session limited in consideration of specific types of legislation. Connecticut—individual legislators may only introduce bills of a fiscal nature, emergency legislation and bills raised by committees. Louisiana—fiscal matters. Maine—budgetary matters; legislation in the governor's call; emergency legislation; legislation referred to committees for study. New Mexico—budgets, appropriations and revenue bills; bills drawn pursuant to governor's message; vetoed bills. Wyoming—budget bills.

(n) Odd-numbered years.

(o) Even-numbered years.

(p) Odd-numbered years—not later than Wednesday after first Monday in June; even-numbered years not later than Wednesday after first Monday in May.

(q) Constitution provides for regular session convening dates and allows that sessions may also be held "... at such other times as the General Assembly shall judge necessary." Call by majority of legislators is implied.

(r) Upon completion of business.

(s) Limited to 40 L, unless extended by 3/5 vote and approved by the governor, except in cases of impeachment proceedings.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS — Continued

- (t) Legislators may reconvene at any time after organizational meeting; however, second Monday in January is the final date by which regular session must be in process.
- (u) Indirect limitation: usually restrictions on legislator's pay, per diem, or daily allowance.
- (v) May not extend beyond April 15.
- (w) Legislative rules say formal business must be concluded by Nov. 15th of the 1st session in the biennium, or by July 31st of the 2nd session for the biennium.
- (x) Joint rules provide for the submission of a written statement requesting special session by a specified number of members of each chamber.
- (y) Legal provision for session in odd-numbered year; however, legislature may divide, and in practice has divided, to meet in even-numbered years as well.
- (z) 90 C sessions every year, except the first year of a gubernatorial administration during which the legislative session runs for 125 C.
- (aa) 30 C if called by legislature; 60 C if called by governor.
- (bb) No legislative day is shorter than a natural day.
- (cc) Odd number years will include a regular session commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday

- in January and recessing not later than the first Monday in February of that year. Limited constitutional duties can be performed.
- (dd) Commencement of regular session depends on concluding date of organizational session. Legislature meets, in odd-numbered year, on second Tuesday in January for a maximum 15 C organizational session, then returns on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the organizational session.
- (ee) Except in cases of impeachment.
- (ff) According to a 1955 attorney general's opinion, when the legislature has petitioned to the governor to be called into session, it may then act on any matter.
- (gg) The legislature, by joint resolution, establishes the session schedule of activity for the remainder of the biennium at the beginning of the odd-numbered year.
- (hh) Each Council period begins on January 2 of each odd-numbered year and ends on January 1 of the following odd-numbered year.
- (ii) Legislature meets on the first Monday of each month following its initial session in January.
- (jj) 60 L before April 1 and 30 L after July 31.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

1560 Broadway  
Suite 700  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
Phone: (303) 830-2200  
FAX No.: (303) 863-8003



Telecopy to: Janet Seitz  
Ofc. of Rep Rokeberg

From: Brenda Erickson

Message: Attached are legislative  
session calendars for 1997 and 1996;  
these should give you an idea  
of when legislatures meet during  
one odd- and even- year.

# 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR

\*Legislature meets throughout the year

STATES	DATES	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ALABAMA	Feb. 4-May 19													
ALASKA	Jan. 13-May 13													
ARIZONA	Jan. 13-April 26													
ARKANSAS	Jan. 13-mid-March													
CALIFORNIA	Jan. 6-mid-Sept.													
COLORADO	Jan. 8-May 8													
CONNECTICUT	Jan. 8-June 4													
DELAWARE	Jan. 14-June 30													
FLORIDA	March 4-May 2													
GEORGIA	Jan. 13-late March													
HAWAII	Jan. 15-early May													
IDAHO	Jan. 6-late March													
ILLINOIS	Jan. 8*													
INDIANA	Jan. 7-April 29													
IOWA	Jan. 13-late April													
KANSAS	Jan. 13-late May													
KENTUCKY	No regular session Organizational session Jan. 7													
LOUISIANA	March 31-June 23													
MAINE	Dec. 4, 1996-June 18													
MARYLAND	Jan. 1-April 7													
MASSACHUSETTS	Jan. 1*													
MICHIGAN	Jan. 15*													
MINNESOTA	Jan. 7-May 19													
MISSISSIPPI	Jan. 7-April 6													
MISSOURI	Jan. 8-May 30													
MONTANA	Jan. 6-mid-April													
NEBRASKA	Jan. 8-early June													
NEVADA	Jan. 20-early July													
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jan. 8-mid-June													
NEW JERSEY	Jan. 14*													
NEW MEXICO	Jan. 21-March 22													
NEW YORK	Jan. 8*													
NORTH CAROLINA	Jan 29-mid-July													
NORTH DAKOTA	Jan. 7-mid-April													
OHIO	Jan. 6*													
OKLAHOMA	Feb. 2-May 30 Organizational session Jan. 7													
OREGON	Jan. 13-late June													
PENNSYLVANIA	Jan. 7*													
RHODE ISLAND	Jan. 7-early July													
SOUTH CAROLINA	Jan. 14-June 5													
SOUTH DAKOTA	Jan. 14-mid-March													
TENNESSEE	Feb. 3-late May Organizational session Jan. 14													
TEXAS	Jan. 14-June 2													
UTAH	Jan. 20-March 5													
VERMONT	Jan. 8-late May													
VIRGINIA	Jan. 8-Feb. 22													
WASHINGTON	Jan. 13-April 27													
WEST VIRGINIA	Feb. 12-April 12 Organizational session Jan. 8													
WISCONSIN	Jan. 6*													
WYOMING	Jan. 14-March 10													
PUERTO RICO	Jan. 13-May 30 Reconvenes Sept.-Oct.													
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Jan. 2*													



National Conference of State Legislatures

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DENVER OFFICE: 1560 Broadway, Suite 700 • Denver, Colorado 80202 • (303) 830-2200 FAX (303) 863-8003

**THIS SESSION, CALL NCSL FOR ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS!**

National Conference of State Legislatures  
**1996 LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION CALENDAR**  
as of May 28, 1996

State	Regular Session		Comments
	Convenes	Adjourns	
Alabama	Feb-06	May-20	
Alaska	Jan-08	May-07	
Arizona	Jan-08	Apr-20	
Arkansas	No regular session		
California	Jan-03	Aug-31	
Colorado	Jan-10	May-08	
Connecticut	Feb-07	May-08	
Delaware	Jan-09	Jun-30	
Florida	Mar-05	May-04	
Georgia	Jan-08	Mar-18	
Hawaii	Jan-17	Apr-29	
Idaho	Jan-09	Mar-15	
Illinois	Jan-10	*	
Indiana	Jan-08	Mar-08	
Iowa	Jan-08	May-01	
Kansas	Jan-06	May-06	
Kentucky	Jan-01	Apr-15	
Louisiana	Apr-29	Jun-12	
Maine	Jan-03	Apr-04	
Maryland	Jan-10	Apr-08	
Massachusetts	Jan-03	Jul-31	
Michigan	Jan-10	*	
Minnesota	Jan-16	Apr-04	
Mississippi	Jan-02	Apr-19	
Missouri	Jan-03	May-17	
Montana	No regular session		
Nebraska	Jan-08	Apr-18	
Nevada	No regular session		
New Hampshire	Jan-03	Jul-01	
New Jersey	Jan-09	*	
New Mexico	Jan-16	Feb-15	
New York	Jan-03	*	
North Carolina	May-13	Jun-21	
North Dakota	No regular session		
Ohio	Jan-01	*	
Oklahoma	Feb-05	May-31	
Oregon	No regular session		
Pennsylvania	Jan-09	*	
Rhode Island	Jan-02	May-29	
South Carolina	Jan-09	Jun-06	
South Dakota	Jan-09	Mar-11	
Tennessee	Jan-09	Apr-26	
Texas	No regular session		
Utah	Jan-15	Feb-28	
Vermont	Jan-03	May-03	
Virginia	Jan-10	Mar-11	
Washington	Jan-08	Mar-07	
West Virginia	Jan-10	Mar-15	extended session by 6 days
Wisconsin	Jan-09	*	
Wyoming	Feb-19	Mar-15	
Puerto Rico	Jan-08	Jun-30	session extended from April 30 to June 30 by joint resolution
District of Columbia	Jan-03	*	

\* Legislature meets throughout the year.  
Highlighting indicates that the state has finished its regular session for 1996.

**National Conference of State Legislatures  
1997 LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION CALENDAR  
as of November 1998**

State	Regular Session		Comments
	Convenes	Adjourns	
Alabama	Feb-04	May-19	
Alaska	Jan-13	May-13	
Arizona	Jan-13	Apr-26	
Arkansas	Jan-13	mid Mar	
California	Jan-08	mid Sept	Organizational session begins December 2, 1998
Colorado	Jan-08	May-08	
Connecticut	Jan-08	Jun-04	
Delaware	Jan-14	Jun-30	
Florida	Mar-04	May-02	Organizational session begins November 19, 1998
Georgia	Jan-13	late-Mar	
Hawaii	Jan-15	early May	
Idaho	Jan-08	late Mar	
Illinois	Jan-08	*	
Indiana	Jan-07	Apr-29	Organizational session begins November 19, 1998
Iowa	Jan-13	late Apr	
Kansas	Jan-13	late May	Organizational session begins December 2, 1993
Kentucky	No Regular Session		Organizational session begins January 7, 1997
Louisiana	Mar-31	Jun-23	
Maine	Dec-04-98	Jun-18	
Maryland	Jan-01	Apr-07	
Massachusetts	Jan-01	*	
Michigan	Jan-15	*	
Minnesota	Jan-07	May-19	
Mississippi	Jan-07	Apr-08	
Missouri	Jan-08	May-30	
Montana	Jan-08	mid Apr	
Nebraska	Jan-08	early Jun	
Nevada	Jan-20	early July	
New Hampshire	Jan-08	mid Jun	Organizational session begins December 3, 1998
New Jersey	Jan-14	*	
New Mexico	Jan-21	Mar-22	
New York	Jan-08	*	
North Carolina	Jan-29	mid July	
North Dakota	Jan-07	mid Apr	Organizational session December 1998
Ohio	Jan-08	*	
Oklahoma	Feb-02	May-30	Organizational session begins January 7, 1997
Oregon	Jan-13	late Jun	
Pennsylvania	Jan-07	*	
Rhode Island	Jan-07	early July	
South Carolina	Jan-14	Jun-05	Organizational session is held following election certification
South Dakota	Jan-14	mid Mar	
Tennessee	Feb-03	late May	Organizational session begins January 14, 1997
Texas	Jan-14	Jun-02	
Utah	Jan-20	Mar-05	Orientation session November 22, 1993
Vermont	Jan-08	late May	
Virginia	Jan-08	Feb-22	
Washington	Jan-13	Apr-27	
West Virginia	Feb-12	Apr-12	Organizational session begins January 8, 1997
Wisconsin	Jan-08	*	
Wyoming	Jan-14	Mar-10	
Puerto Rico	Jan-13	May-30	Second portion of session runs Sept-Oct.
District of Columbia	Jan-02	*	

\* Legislature meets throughout the year.



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SPONSOR STATEMENT  
REPRESENTATIVES NORMAN ROKEBERG AND JERRY SANDERS  
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of a regular session

House Joint Resolution 1 proposes an amendment to Alaska's Constitution that would limit regular legislative sessions to 90 consecutive calendar days. If this resolution passes, the proposed constitutional amendment would be presented to the voters at the next general election. The voters would then decide the fate of this proposal.

Ninety days is more than enough time for the Legislature to complete its business. In an era of decreasing budgets, reducing the session by thirty days would save state funds. As an example, the amount expended for session per diem would decrease.

Prior to 1984, the Legislature had no time limit on the number of days it could remain in session. The voters approved the present 120 day limit on November 6, 1984. Since that time, it has been amply proven that the Alaska Legislature can operate within a time limit. It is now time to shorten that session limit so that the business of the people can be addressed in a reasonable manner within a reasonable time limit.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

LABOR & COMMERCE, CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY, MEMBER  
OIL AND GAS, MEMBER



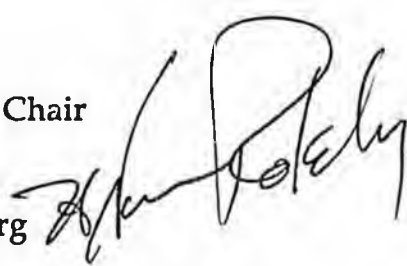
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SESSION:  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182  
PHONE: (907) 465-4968  
FAX: (907) 465-2040

### Representative Norman Rokeberg

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Jeannette James, Chair  
House State Affairs

FROM: Representative Norman Rokeberg 

DATE: February 18, 1997

RE: HJR 1 - 90 day session limit

I am submitting additional information regarding the captioned matter. By memorandum dated February 11, 1997, a scheduling request was sent to you. A fiscal note from Legislative Affairs was delivered to your office last week.

The following items are attached:

1. "1997 Legislative Session Calendar" from NCSL.
2. "1996 Legislative Regular Session Calendar" from NCSL.
3. "1997 Legislative Regular Session Calendar" from NCSL.
4. Proposed amendment. This amendment would:
  - a. Change the title so that it would read: "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the convening and duration of a regular session."
  - b. Delete current lines 6 and 7 and replace with the language in the amendment. This language would have the effect of making the session convening date the first Monday in February and limiting the duration of a session to 90 days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### Attachments

cc: Rep. Sanders (w/ attachments)

HJR 1

Vesey - Am to 60 days  
Wyon Objected

Failed 5-1

~~Change 4/41 New all Jan~~

Change 90 → 100 days limit  
p-1

Hedgens

Ben Kowitz objected  
Failed 3-2

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: HJR 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROKEBERG

1 Page 1, line 2, following "the":

2 Insert "convening and"

3 Page 1, lines 6 and 7:

4 Delete "fourth Monday in January, but the month and day may be changed by law.

5 Each regular session is limited to ninety [THE"

6 Insert "first [FOURTH] Monday in February. Each regular session is limited to

7 ninety [JANUARY, BUT THE MONTH AND DAY MAY BE CHANGED BY LAW. THE

100

*Failed*

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR1

Revision Date (Note if correction) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected Office of the Governor  
 Title Const. Amend: Relating to the duration BRU Elective Operations  
 of a regular session \_\_\_\_\_ Component General and Primary  
 Sponsor Representative Rokeberg  
 Requester House State Affairs Committee Component Serial No. #22

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	3.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	3.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This figure includes the cost of providing information about this issue in the Official Election Pamphlet, as required by AS 15.58, and the programming costs for counting votes cast on the measure. However, only four measures can be printed on a single ballot card. If this measure requires printing an additional ballot card, the costs will increase by \$56.0.

Prepared by Gail Fenur *Gail Fenur* Phone 465-3935  
 Division Division of Elections Date 3/2/98  
 Approved by C Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer *Fran Ulmer* Date 3/2/98  
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL VERSION: HJR 1  
PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Proposing an amendment to the  
Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration...  
Sponsor: Representative Rokeberg  
Requestor: House State Affairs

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: Legislative Council  
Component: Session Expenses  
Salaries & Allowances

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0
TRAVEL	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6
CONTRACTUAL	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4
SUPPLIES	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0
EQUIPMENT	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HJR 1 would amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska by limiting the regular session to 90 days. The daily cost of a legislative session is \$50,000. A 90 day session would decrease the cost of a regular session by \$1,500,000.

Session per diem is budgeted under travel. Session per diem for 30 days is \$298.6.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852  
Division: Administrative Services Date: 3/2/98

Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela A. Varni*  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 3/2/98

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, Gov., & Impacted Agency(ies).

# FISCAL NOTE

(1997)

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL VERSION: HJR 1  
PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Proposing an amendment to the  
Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration...  
Sponsor: Representative Rokeberg  
Requestor: Representative Rokeberg

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: Legislative Council  
Component: Session Expenses  
Salaries & Allowances

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

**Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0	-1,040.0
TRAVEL	0	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6	-298.6
CONTRACTUAL	0	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4	-126.4
SUPPLIES	0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0	-25.0
EQUIPMENT	0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0	-1,500.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>	<b>-1,500.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

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

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

HJR 1 would amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska by limiting the regular session to 90 days. The daily cost of a legislative session is \$50,000. A 90 day session would decrease the cost of a regular session by \$1,500,000.

Session per diem is budgeted under travel. Session per diem for 30 days is \$298.6.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852  
Division: Administrative Services Date: 2/11/97

Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela A. Varni*  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 2/11/97

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, Gov., & Impacted Agency(ies).

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL & GAS, MEMBER  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MEMBER  
CORRECTIONS BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE, MEMBER  
ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE, MEMBER  
HESS BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE, MEMBER




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JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182  
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FAX: (907) 465-2040

## Representative Norman Rokeberg

### MEMORANDUM

TC: Representative Jeannette James, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Norman Rokeberg 

DATE: February 3, 1998

RE: HJR 1 – Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of a regular session

On February 11, 1997, Representative Sanders and I requested that the captioned resolution be brought before your committee for a hearing. On February 14, 1997, a fiscal note from Legislative Affairs Agency showing savings of \$1.5 million per year was delivered to your office.

I would like to renew my request that this resolution be heard by your committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: Rep. Sanders