

HJR

4

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
Bill Version: CSHJR 4(STA)
(H) Publish Date: 1/23/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: GOV
Title Amendment to the Constitution relating RDU Elections
to the duration of a regular session. Component Elections
Sponsor Rep. Samuels
Requester Judiciary Component No. 21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	1.5					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1.5					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

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. If this measure requires the printing of an 8-1/2 by 18 inch ballot, the cost will increase by \$22.0.

Prepared by: Leonard G. Jones Phone 465-3051
Division Division of Elections Date/Time 1/15/04 2:09 PM
Approved by: Laura A. Glaiser, Director Date 1/15/2004
Agency Office of the Lt. Governor, Division of Elections

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
Bill Version: CSHJR 4(STA)
(H) Publish Date: 1/23/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title Proposing an amendment to the BRU Leg Council, Leg Operating Budget
Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration... Component: All
Sponsor Representative Samuels, Rokeberg...
Requestor House Judiciary Component No. 782

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services	0.0	(516.0)	(172.0)	(516.0)	(516.0)	(516.0)
Travel	0.0	(285.0)	(95.0)	(285.0)	(285.0)	(285.0)
Contractual	0.0	(21.0)	(7.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Supplies	0.0	(21.0)	(7.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	(843.0)	(281.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)
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						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	(843.0)	(281.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	(843.0)	(281.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: _____

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CSHJR 4(STA) would amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska by limiting the regular session to 90 days. If this resolution is passed and approved by the voters at the next general election in 2004, the earliest the 90 day session limit would be in effect would be 2006. The Legislature would realize a cost savings of approximately \$28.1 per day for each day of a shorter session. Shortening the session by 30 days would result in a cost savings of, 30 times \$28.1, or \$843.0 per year. Also, if the amendments pass, in gubernatorial election years, such as FY07, the session would be limited to 110 days. A cost savings of \$281.0 would be realized during these years.

The Legislature traditionally charges expenses occurring during session to session expense accounts, and expenses occurring during the interim to interim expense accounts. For example: Most

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director Phone 465-6626
Division Administrative Services Date/Time 1/19/04 10:11 AM
Approved by: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director Date 1/19/2004
Agency Legislative Affairs Agency

FISCAL NOTE #4

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHJR 4(STA)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

legislative staff payroll costs are charged to operating expense accounts during the interim. Staff salaries for most legislative staffers are charged to session expense accounts during the session. The legislative payroll is higher during a legislative session. If the session were shortened to 90 days, the session payroll would decrease and the interim payroll would increase. There would be a decrease in the total amount of the payroll due to the higher cost of personal services during a session. The majority of the personal services costs would be a transfer of costs between allocations.

The costs below are for items not needed for a shorter session.

	Per Day	times 30 days	Total
Personal Services	17.2	30	516.0
 Travel			
Session per diem costs 10.5 per day. If session were shortened more long term per diem claims would be filed during the year, approximately 1.0 per day 10.5 - 1.0 = 9.5	9.5	30	285.0
 Contractual			
Telephones, chaplin fees, copier maintenance	0.7	30	21.0
 Supplies			
Lounge supplies	0.7	30	21.0
Printshop paper supplies	_____		_____
	28.1		843.0

Current number of session days	120
Proposed number of session days	90

	30

Gubernatorial election year savings:

Personal Services	17.2	10	172.0
Travel	9.5	10	95.0
Contractual	0.7	10	7.0
Supplies	0.7	10	7.0
	_____		_____
	28.1		281.0



REPRESENTATIVE RALPH SAMUELS

HOUSE DISTRICT 29

Sponsor Statement House Joint Resolution 4

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

By Representatives Samuels and Rokeberg

House Joint Resolution 4 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 2004 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. Shorter sessions would: (1) save almost \$1 million in per diem and staffing costs; (2) aid in candidate recruitment; (3) and focus the public attention. Other states can do their work in 90 days or less -- Alaska should be able to accomplish this also. Fourteen other states have legislative session of 90 days or less.

Another benefit of shorter sessions is that Alaskans want citizen-legislators. They feel legislators should be able to carry on a livelihood outside of legislative work. Shorter sessions would encourage a larger number of people to run for office and still be able to make a living at their everyday jobs.

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.

Your positive consideration of this measure would be appreciated.

Email: Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us

Session: Alaska State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • Phone: (907) 465-2095 Fax: (907) 465-3810
Interim: 716 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133 • Phone: (907) 269-0240 Fax: (907) 269-0242

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Sponsor Rep. Samuels
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Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

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Personal Services						
Travel						
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Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1.5					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

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POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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Approved by: Laura A. Glaiser, Director
Agency: Office of the Lt. Governor, Division of Elections

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Sponsor: Representative Samuels, Rokeberg....
Requestor: House Judiciary Component No. 782

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Contractual	0.0	(21.0)	(7.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Supplies	0.0	(21.0)	(7.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	(843.0)	(281.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)	(843.0)

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
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Contractual			
Telephones, chaplin fees, copier maintenance	0.7	30	21.0
Supplies	0.7	30	21.0
Lounge supplies			
Printshop paper supplies			
	28.1		843.0
Current number of session days	120		
Proposed number of session days	90		
	30		
<u>Gubernatorial election year savings:</u>			
Personal Services	17.2	10	172.0
Travel	9.5	10	95.0
Contractual	0.7	10	7.0
Supplies	0.7	10	7.0
	28.1		281.0



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Legislative Sessions

Annual v. Biennial

In the early 1960s, only 19 state legislatures met annually. The remaining 31 held biennial regular sessions. All but three (Kentucky, Mississippi and Virginia) held their biennial session in the odd-numbered year. Ten of the 19 states with annual sessions limited the "off-year" to consideration of budgetary and fiscal matters.

By the mid-1970s, the number of states meeting annually grew tremendously--up from 19 to 41. However, several of these states used a "flexible" session format in which the total days of session time was divided between two years; these states included Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Vermont.

Today, 44 state legislatures meet annually. The remaining six states--Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon and Texas--hold session every other year. All of the biennial legislatures hold their regular sessions in the odd year. Six states have limited scope sessions--that is, where one year of the biennium is limited to consideration of specific types of legislation. The states with limited scope sessions are Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, New Mexico, North Carolina and Wyoming.

Kentucky, New Hampshire and Washington were the last states to change from biennial to annual regular sessions; these states held their first annual sessions in 2001, 1985 and 1981, respectively.

There are several basic arguments used by the respective proponents of annual or biennial sessions. Listed below are the ones set out by political scientists, William Keefe and Morris Ogul.

For Annual Sessions	For Biennial Sessions
1. The biennial format is unsuitable for dealing with the complex and continuing problems which confront today's legislatures. The responsibilities of a legislature have become so burdensome that they can no longer be discharged on an alternate-year basis.	1. There are enough laws. Biennial sessions constitute a safeguard against precipitate and unseemly legislative action.
2. More frequent meetings may serve to raise the status of the legislature, thereby helping to check the flow of power to the executive branch.	2. Yearly meetings of the legislature will contribute to legislative harassment of the administration and its agencies.
3. Continuing legislative oversight of the administration becomes more feasible with annual sessions, and that administrative accountability for the execution of legislative policies is more easily enforced.	3. The interval between sessions may be put to good advantage by individual legislators and interim study commissions, since there is never sufficient time during a session to study proposed legislation.
4. States may respond more rapidly to new federal laws which require state participation.	4. The biennial system affords legislators more time to renew relations with constituents, to mend political fences and to campaign for reelection.
5. The legislature cannot operate effectively in fits and starts. Annual sessions may help make the policy-making process more timely and orderly	5. Annual sessions inevitably lead to a spiraling of legislative costs, for the legislators and other assembly personnel are brought together twice as often.
6. Annual sessions would serve to diminish the need for special sessions.	

Session Length

In the early 1960s, 17 states did not place restrictions on the length of their legislative sessions. In another 10 states, the limits were indirect--being set by restrictions on legislator compensation, per diem or travel reimbursements. Several states increased their session length. These were Colorado (from 120 to 160); Georgia (from 80 to 85); Kansas (from 90 to 120); Minnesota (from 90 to 120); and South Dakota (from 60 to 75).

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s, session limitations were becoming more defined. Fewer states had unrestricted sessions, and the number of states with indirect session limits had fallen.

Currently, only 12 states do not place a limit on the length of regular session. The remaining 38 set limits through a variety of ways. Constitutional provisions establish the limits in 28 states. Indirect limits on legislator compensation, per diem or mileage reimbursement are in effect in 3 states. Statutory provisions set the restrictions in 4, and another 3 use chamber rules.

Limits on Session Length

State	1962-63	1972-73	1982-83	Nov 2001
Alabama	36 L	36 L	30 L in 105 C	30 L in 105 C (by statute)
Alaska	None	None	None	120 C
Arizona	63 C (indirect)	None	Sat of week in which 100 th C falls (chamber rule)	Sat of week in which 100 th C falls (chamber rule)
Arkansas	60 C	60 C	60 C	60 C
California	Odd-120 C Even-30 C	None	None	Even-Nov 30 (constitution) Odd-Sept 12 Even-Aug 31 (chamber rule)
Colorado	160 C within biennium (indirect)	None	Odd-None Even-140 C	120 C
Connecticut	Wed after 1 st Mon in June	Odd-Wed after 1 st Mon in June Even-Wed after 1 st Mon in May	Odd-Wed after 1 st Mon in June Even-Wed after 1 st Mon in May	Odd-Wed after 1 st Mon in June Even- Wed after 1 st Mon in May
Delaware	Odd-90 L Even-30 L	June 30	June 30	June 30
Florida	60 C	60 C	60 C	60 C
Georgia	Odd-45 C Even-40 C	Odd-45 L Even-40 L	40 L	40 L
Hawaii	Odd-60 C Even-30 C	60 L	60 L	60 L
Idaho	60 C (indirect)	60 C (indirect)	None	None
Illinois	None (by	None	None	None

	custom-July (7-1)			
Indiana	61 C	Odd-61 L or April 30 Even-30 L or March 15	Odd-61 L or April 30 Even-30 L or March 15	Odd-Apr 29 Even-Mar 14 (by statute)
Iowa	None	None	(indirect)	Odd-110 C Even-100 C (indirect)
Kansas	Odd-90 L Even-30 C (indirect)	Odd-90 C Even-60 C (indirect)	Odd-None Even-90 C	Odd-None Even-90 C
Kentucky	60 L	60 L	60 L	Odd: 30 L or Mar 30 Even: 60 L or Apr 15
Louisiana	Odd-30 C Even-60 C	Odd-30 C Even 60 C	60 L in 85 C	Odd-60 L in 85 C Even-30 L in 45 C
Maine	None	None	Odd-100 L Even-50 L	Odd-3 rd Wed in June Even-3 rd Wed in Apr (by statute)
Maryland	Odd-90 C Even-30 C	90 C	90 C	90 C
Massachusetts	None	None	None	Formal sessions: Odd-3 rd Wed in November Even-July 31 Informal sessions: None (by chamber rule)
Michigan	None	None	None	None
Minnesota	120 L	120 L	120 L total within biennium or 1 st Mon after 3 rd Sat in May each year	120 L total within biennium or 1 st Mon after 3 rd Sat in May each year

Mississippi	None	90 C except year after gubernatorial election, then 125 C	90 C except year after gubernatorial election, then 125 C	90 C except year after gubernatorial election, then 125 C
Missouri	July 15	Odd-June 30 Even-May 15	Odd-June 30 Even-May 15	May 30
Montana	60 C	60 L	90 L	90 L
Nebraska	None	Odd-90 L Even-60 L	Odd-90 L Even-60 L	Odd-90 L Even-60 L
Nevada	60 C (indirect)	60 C (indirect)	60 C (indirect)	120 C
New Hampshire	July 1 (indirect)	90 days or July 1 (indirect)	90 L or July 1 (indirect)	45 L or July 1 (indirect)
New Jersey	None	None	None	None
New Mexico	60 C	Odd-60 C Even-30 C	Odd-60 C Even 30 C	Odd-60 C Even-30 C
New York	None	None	None	None
North Carolina	120 C (indirect)	None	None	None
North Dakota	60 L	60 L	80 L	80 L
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	None	90 L	90 L	Last Fri in May
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	None	None	None	None
Rhode Island	60 L (indirect)	60 L (indirect)	60 L (indirect)	None
South Carolina	None	None	1 st Thurs in June (by statute)	1 st Thurs in June (by statute)
South Dakota	Odd-45 L Even-30 L	Odd-45 L Even-30 L	Odd-40 L Even-35 L	Odd-40 L Even-35 L
Tennessee	75 C (indirect)	90 L (indirect)	90 L (indirect)	90 L (indirect)

Texas	140 C	140 C	140 C	140 C
Utah	60 C	Odd-60 C Even-20 C	Odd-60 C Even-20 C	45 C
Vermont	None	(indirect)	(indirect)	None
Virginia	60 C (indirect)	Odd-30 C Even-60 C	Odd-30 C Even-60 C	Odd-30 C Even-60 C
Washington	60 C	60 C	Odd-105 C Even-60 C	Odd-105 C Even-60 C
West Virginia	Odd-60 C Even 30 C	60 C	60 C	60 C
Wisconsin	None	None	None	None
Wyoming	40 C	Odd-40 L Even 20 L	Odd-40 L Even-20 L	Odd-40 L Even-20 L

Key:

C = calendar day
L = legislative day

No highlight = annual session
Turquoise highlight = biennial session
Gray highlight = "flexible" session format

For more information:

Contact Brenda Erickson at brenda.erickson@ncsl.org or (303) 830-2200.

As of November 2001

National Conference of State Legislatures
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Fax: 202-737-1069


Legislative Research Services

Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Affairs Agency
Division of Legal and Research Services

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: 907-465-3991
Fax: 907-465-3908

March 25, 2003

Memorandum

TO: Representative Ralph Samuels
FROM: Patricia Young 
Manager
RE: Session Length and Bills Passed

You asked for information on session length and the number of bills passed during various Legislatures. We include, as Attachment A, pertinent pages from the *Summary of Alaska Legislation 2002* showing information on legislative sessions since statehood, as well as pages showing the numbers of bills introduced in each chamber and the number that became law during each Legislature.

For each Legislature, the Legislative Affairs Agency also publishes a *Final Status of Bills and Resolutions*, and these contain a statistical summary of measures before the House and a similar summary for measures before the Senate. As Attachment B, we include information on the number of bills and resolutions passed by both chambers from 1979 through 1992. This information was taken from the various editions of the *Final Status of Bills and Resolutions*. Please note that because of the way legislation was tabulated in prior years, the numbers may be somewhat high. In some instances, a bill may have passed one chamber in a different form than it passed the other chamber and no concurrence or rescission occurred. While such legislation is counted as having passed both bodies, it did not pass in the same form and, thus, could not become law.

We also include, as Attachment C, a copy of a research report showing the number of bills passed during the final two weeks of session in 1985-87. This report, and supplemental information, is 88.113.

I hope this is helpful. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS SINCE STATEHOOD

Legislature/Session & Number of Days	Day/Date Convened	Day/Date Adjourned	Adjournment Time	
			SENATE	HOUSE
1ST LEGISLATURE: 1959 - 1960 1st Session - 81 days 2nd Session - 65 days	Mo 1/26/59 Mo 1/25/60	Tu 4/16/59 Tu 3/29/60	9:50pm 12:00pm	9:45pm 12:00pm
2ND LEGISLATURE: 1961 - 1962 1st Session - 74 days 2nd Session - 81 days	Mo 1/23/61 Mo 1/22/62	Th 4/6/61 Th 4/12/62	2:01am 1:22am	2:20am 1:10am
3RD LEGISLATURE: 1963 - 1964 1st Session - 76 days 2nd Session - 85 days* 1st Special Session - 3 days *Formal recess, 40 days	Mo 1/28/63 Mo 1/27/64 Mo 8/31/64	Sa 4/13/63 Sa 5/30/64 We 9/2/64	10:46am 1:00am 11:12am	10:45am 1:00am 11:08am
4TH LEGISLATURE: 1965 - 1966 1st Session - 75 days 2nd Session - 84 days	Mo 1/25/65 Mo 1/24/66	Fr 4/9/65 Su 4/17/66	4:32am 1:14am	4:35am 1:28am
5TH LEGISLATURE: 1967 - 1968 1st Session - 77 days 1st Special Session - 6 days 2nd Session - 86 days	Mo 1/23/67 Fr 9/29/67 Mo 1/22/68	Su 4/9/67 We 10/4/67 Tu 4/16/68	11:35am 2:37am 8:05am	11:32am 2:35am 8:00am
6TH LEGISLATURE: 1969 - 1970 1st Session - 95 days 2nd Session - 147 days	Mo 1/27/69 Mo 1/12/70	Th 5/1/69 Su 6/7/70	4:18am 3:33am	4:30am 3:51am
7TH LEGISLATURE: 1971 - 1972 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 161 days	Mo 1/11/71 Mo 1/10/72	Tu 5/11/71 Tu 6/18/72	3:23am 12:50am	3:26am 12:59am
8TH LEGISLATURE: 1973 - 1974 1st Session - 90 days 1st Special Session - 27 days 2nd Session - 96 days 2nd Special Session - 4 days	Mo 1/8/73 We 10/17/73 Mo 1/21/74 Mo 6/17/74	Sa 4/7/73 Mo 11/12/73 Fr 4/27/74 Th 6/20/74	5:45pm 4:35pm 8:21pm 6:17pm	5:50pm 4:35pm 8:25pm 6:12pm
9TH LEGISLATURE: 1975 - 1976 1st Session - 139 days 2nd Session - 142 days	Mo 1/20/75 Mo 1/12/76	Sa 6/7/75 Tu 6/1/76	2:30am 8:19am	2:43am 8:14am
10TH LEGISLATURE: 1977 - 1978 1st Session - 141 days 2nd Session - 161 days	Mo 1/10/77 Mo 1/9/78	Mo 5/30/77 Su 6/18/78	10:41am 9:32pm	12:33pm 11:36pm
11TH LEGISLATURE: 1979 - 1980 1st Session - 112 days 1st Special Session - 3 days 2nd Session - 145 days 2nd Special Session - 3 days	Mo 1/15/79 Mo 8/6/79 Mo 1/14/80 Mo 9/22/80	Su 5/6/79 We 8/8/79 Fr 6/6/80 We 9/24/80	12:15pm 2:16pm 8:43pm (6/5) 9:38am	3:00pm 7:26pm (8/7) 1:01am 2:55am (9/23)
12TH LEGISLATURE: 1981 - 1982 1st Session - 165 days 1st Special Session - 3 days 2nd Session - 144 days	Mo 1/12/81 Mo 7/13/81 Mo 1/11/82	Th 6/25/81 We 7/15/81 We 6/3/82	7:06pm (6/24) 6:11pm (7/14) 5:35pm	12:23am 1:32am 7:23am (6/2)
13TH LEGISLATURE: 1983 - 1984 1st Session - 162 days 2nd Session - 152 days	Mo 1/17/83 Mo 1/9/84	Mo 6/27/83 Fr 6/8/84	9:39am 4:38pm	9:28pm (6/26) 4:05pm

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LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS SINCE STATEHOOD

Legislature/Session & Number of Days	Day/Date Convened	Day/Date Adjourned	Adjournment Time	
			SENATE	HOUSE
14TH LEGISLATURE: 1985 - 1986 1st Session - 119 days 1st Special Session - 30 days* 2nd Session - 120 days	Mo 1/14/85 Mo 7/15/85 Mo 1/13/86	Su 5/12/85 Tu 8/13/85 Mo 5/12/86	9:42pm . 11:54pm	10:52pm . 11:55pm
* The First Special Session of the Fourteenth Legislature (considering the question of impeachment of Governor Sheffield) adjourned in 30 days under Article II, Section 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska.				
15TH LEGISLATURE: 1987 - 1988 1st Session - 122 days** 1st Special Session - 3 days 2nd Session - 121 days	Mo 1/19/87 Mo 7/1/87 Mo 1/11/88	We 5/20/87 Fr 7/3/87 Tu 5/10/88	11:58pm (5/19) 1:31am 4:12am	1:30am 12:12am 6:04am
** The First Session of the Fifteenth Legislature was extended by a proclamation by the Governor.				
16TH LEGISLATURE: 1989 - 1990 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 122 days 1st Special Session - 14 days	Mo 1/9/89 Mo 1/8/90 Mo 6/25/90	Tu 5/9/89 We 5/9/90 Su 7/8/90	11:59pm 11:59pm (5/8) 5:13pm	11:32pm 12:01am 5:00pm
17TH LEGISLATURE: 1991 - 1992 1st Session - 122 days 2nd Session - 122 days 1st Special Session - 4 days 2nd Special Session - 8 days	Mo 1/21/91 Mo 1/13/92 We 05/13/92 Mo 06/15/92	We 5/22/91 We 5/13/92 Sat 5/16/92 Mon 6/22/92	9:39pm (5/21) 11:59pm (5/12) 4:56pm (5/15) 3:44pm	12:37am 12:06am 5:40am 4:17pm
18TH LEGISLATURE: 1993 - 1994 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 121 days 1st Special Session: Senate - 7 days House - 5 days 2nd Special Session - 3 days	Mo 1/11/93 Mo 1/10/94 Tu 5/10/94 Th 5/12/94 Mo 9/26/94	Tu 5/11/93 Tu 5/10/94 Mon 5/16/94 Mon 5/16/94 We 9/28/94	9:02pm unclear 4:36pm 12:35am	9:11pm 11:59pm 6:15pm 12:40am
19TH LEGISLATURE: 1995 - 1996 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 122 days 1st Special Session - 30 days	Mo 1/16/95 Mo 1/8/96 We 5/8/96	Tu 5/16/95 We 5/8/96 Th 6/6/96	10:05pm 12:18am 4:37pm	10:13pm 12:13am 4:51pm
20TH LEGISLATURE: 1997 - 1998 1st Session - 119 days 2nd Session - 122 days 1st Special Session - 7 days 2nd Special Session - 2 days	Mo 1/13/97 Mo 1/12/98 Tu 5/26/98 Mo 7/20/98	Su 5/11/97 We 5/13/98 Mon 6/1/98 Tu 7/21/98	11:04pm 12:09am 1:26pm 9:25pm	11:43pm 12:03am 1:51pm 8:57pm
21ST LEGISLATURE - 1999 - 2000 1st Session - 121 days 1st Special Session - 6 days 2nd Special Session - 9 days 2nd Session - 115 days 3rd Special Session - 3 days	Tu 1/19/99 Th 5/20/99 We 9/22/99 Mo 1/10/00 Th 5/4/00	Tu 5/19/99 Tu 5/25/99 Th 9/30/99 We 5/3/00 Sa 5/6/00	11:56pm 6:06pm 6:55pm 7:11pm 11:47am	11:53pm 6:10pm 6:39pm 7:46pm 11:40am
22ND LEGISLATURE - 2001 - 2002 1st Session - 121 days 1st Special Session - 3 days 2nd Session - 123 days (extended) 2nd Special Session - 5 days 3rd Special Session - 4 days	Mo 1/8/01 Th 6/7/01 Mo 1/14/02 Fr 5/17/02 Mo 6/24/02	Tu 5/8/01 Sa 6/9/01 Th 5/16/02 Tu 5/21/02 Th 6/27/02	11:48pm 10:55am 11:59:59pm*** 5:32pm 12:41am	11:52pm 10:41am 11:58pm 5:08pm 1:42am

***Under the provisions of art. II, sec. 8 of the Alaska Constitution, the Senate was adjourned sine die at midnight, May 16, 2002.

NOTE: All Special Sessions were called by the Governor, except the 1st Special Session of the 14th Legislature, and the 1st Special Session of the 17th Legislature, which were called by the Legislature.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

1959 - present

LEGISLATURE/SESSION & NUMBER OF DAYS	BILLS INTRODUCED			BILLS BECAME LAW
	HOUSE	SENATE	TOTAL	
1ST LEGISLATURE: 1959 - 1960 1st Session - 81 days 2nd Session - 65 days Total	249 <u>225</u> 474	132 <u>127</u> 259	381 <u>352</u> 733	200 <u>187</u> 387
2ND LEGISLATURE: 1961 - 1962 1st Session - 74 days 2nd Session - 81 days Total	285 <u>211</u> 496	178 <u>120</u> 298	463 <u>331</u> 794	147 <u>169</u> 316
3RD LEGISLATURE: 1963 - 1964 1st Session - 76 days 2nd Session - 85 days* 1st Special Session - 3 days Total *Formal recess, 40 days	238 230 <u>9</u> 477	191 168 <u>0</u> 359	429 398 <u>9</u> 836	104 119 <u>8</u> 231
4TH LEGISLATURE: 1965 - 1966 1st Session - 75 days 2nd Session - 84 days Total	289 <u>238</u> 527	192 <u>149</u> 341	481 <u>387</u> 868	117 <u>169</u> 286
5TH LEGISLATURE: 1967 - 1968 1st Session - 77 days 1st Special Session - 6 days 2nd Session - 86 days Total	348 17 <u>364</u> 729	203 17 <u>209</u> 429	551 34 <u>573</u> 1,158	139 31 <u>236</u> 406
6TH LEGISLATURE: 1969 - 1970 1st Session - 95 days 2nd Session - 147 days Total	411 <u>466</u> 877	350 <u>252</u> 602	761 <u>718</u> 1,479	120 <u>253</u> 373
7TH LEGISLATURE: 1971 - 1972 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 161 days Total	470 <u>363</u> 833	247 <u>189</u> 436	717 <u>552</u> 1,269	131 <u>208</u> 339
8TH LEGISLATURE: 1973 - 1974 1st Session - 90 days 1st Special Session - 27 days 2nd Session - 96 days 2nd Special Session - 4 days Total	424 10 438 <u>9</u> 881	259 9 278 <u>8</u> 554	683 19 716 <u>17</u> 1,435	91 8 147 <u>9</u> 255
9TH LEGISLATURE: 1975 - 1976 1st Session - 139 days 2nd Session - 142 days Total	538 <u>397</u> 935	474 <u>289</u> 761	1,010 <u>686</u> 1,696	220 <u>279</u> 499
10TH LEGISLATURE: 1977 - 1978 1st Session - 141 days 2nd Session - 161 days Total	552 <u>434</u> 986	370 <u>272</u> 642	922 <u>706</u> 1,628	155 <u>182</u> 337
11TH LEGISLATURE: 1979 - 1980 1st Session - 112 days 1st Special Session - 3 days 2nd Session - 145 days 2nd Special Session - 3 days Total	503 3 533 <u>0</u> 1,039	289 2 299 <u>0</u> 590	792 5 832 <u>0</u> 1,629	87 4 176 <u>3</u> 270

LEGISLATURE/SESSION & NUMBER OF DAYS	BILLS INTRODUCED			BILLS BECAME LAW
	HOUSE	SENATE	TOTAL	
12TH LEGISLATURE: 1981 - 1982				
1st Session - 165 days	620	606	1,226	120
1st Special Session - 3 days	0	1	1	0
2nd Session - 144 days	<u>274</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>566</u>	<u>144</u>
Total	894	899	1,793	264
13TH LEGISLATURE: 1983 - 1984				
1st Session - 162 days	449	318	767	109
2nd Session - 152 days	<u>273</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>171</u>
Total	722	554	1,276	280
14TH LEGISLATURE: 1985 - 1986				
1st Session - 119 days	448	322	770	105
1st Special Session - 30 days	0	0	0	0
2nd Session - 120 days	<u>262</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>146</u>
Total	710	489	1,199	251
15TH LEGISLATURE: 1987 - 1988				
1st Session - 122 days	327	310	637	96
1st Special Session - 3 days	2	2	4	5
2nd Session - 121 days	<u>238</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>173</u>
Total	567	520	1,087	274
16TH LEGISLATURE: 1989 - 1990				
1st Session - 121 days	360	331	691	117
2nd Session - 122 days	230	221	459	211
1st Special Session - 14 days	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	603	556	1,159	329
17TH LEGISLATURE: 1991 - 1992				
1st Session - 122 days	356	313	669	96
2nd Session - 122 days	236	164	400	137
1st Special Session - 4 days	6	6	12	5
2nd Special Session - 8 days	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	602	485	1,087	239
18TH LEGISLATURE: 1993 - 1994				
1st Session - 121 days	304	218	522	83
2nd Session - 121 days	244	163	407	131
1st Special session (7 days Senate, 5 days House)	0	0	0	8
2nd Special session - 3 days	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	550	383	933	224
19TH LEGISLATURE: 1995 - 1996				
1st Session - 121 days	352	187	539	105
2nd Session - 122 days	202	140	342	146
1st Special Session - 30 days	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	564	339	903	257
20TH LEGISLATURE: 1997 - 1998				
1st Session - 119 days	289	206	495	113
2nd Session - 122 days	202	154	356	142
1st Special Session - 7 days	1	2	3	1
2nd Special Session - 2 days	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	493	363	856	256

LEGISLATURE/SESSION & NUMBER OF DAYS	BILLS INTRODUCED			BILLS BECAME LAW
	HOUSE	SENATE	TOTAL	
21ST LEGISLATURE: 1999 - 2000				
1st Session - 121 days	253	185	438	94
1st Special Session - 6 days	1	1	2	2
2nd Special Session - 9 days	0	0	0	2
2nd Session - 115 days	195	129	324	136
3rd Special Session - 3 days	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	451	317	768	236
22ND LEGISLATURE: 2001 - 2002				
1st Session - 121 days	276	229	505	103
1st Special Session - 3 days	0	0	0	1
2nd Session - 123 days	256	143	399	143
2nd Special Session - 5 days	8	12	20	5
3rd Special Session - 4 days	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	542	386	928	254

**Legislation Passed by Both Houses
1979 - 1992**

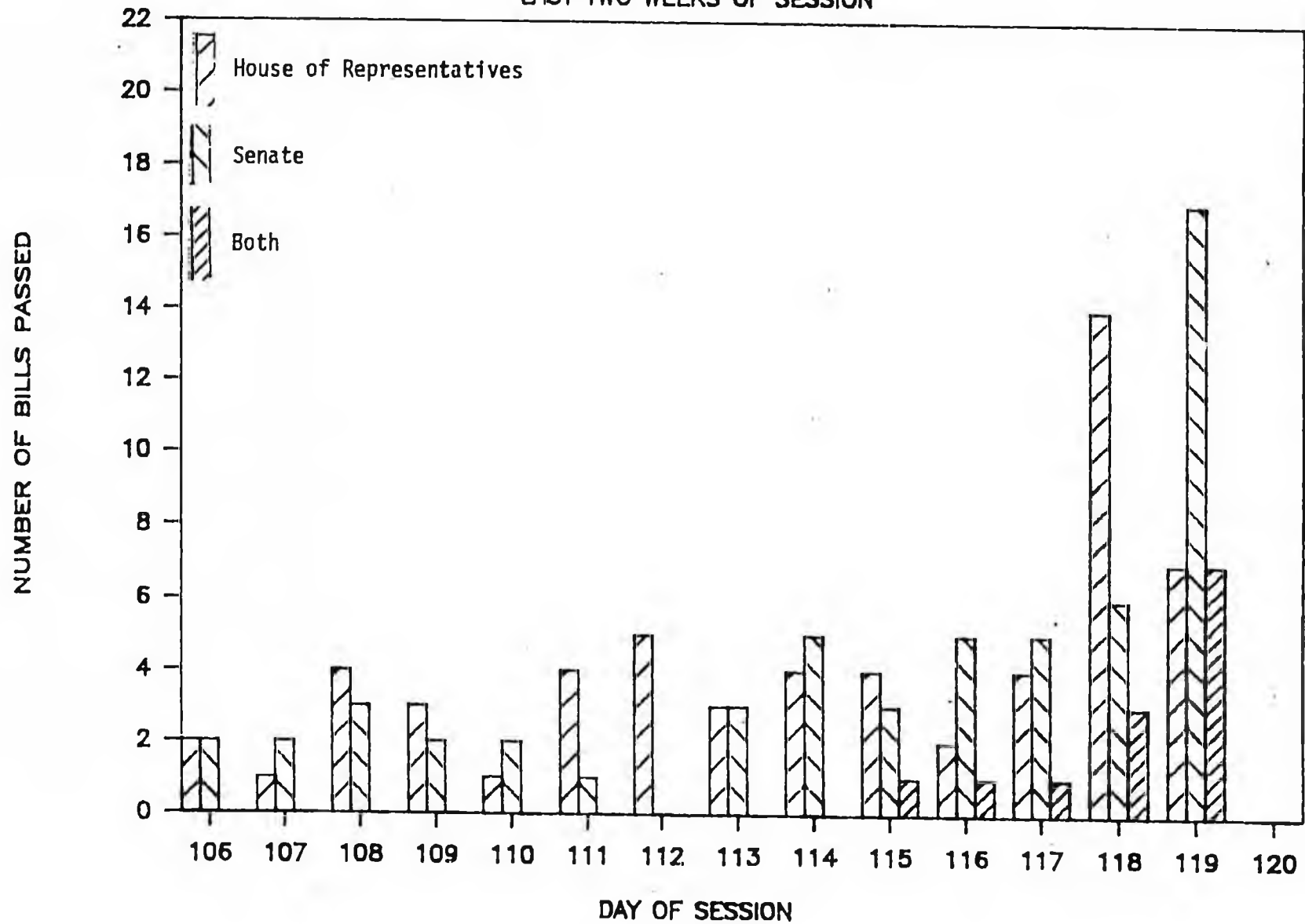
Legislature	Senate Bills	House Bills	Total Bills	Senate Resolutions	House Resolutions	Total Resolutions
11th						
1979	54	62	116	18	15	33
1980	95	104	199	20	29	49
Total	149	166	315	38	44	82
12th						
1981	75	58	133	26	20	46
1982	92	69	161	10	10	20
Total	167	127	294	36	30	66
13th						
1983	54	59	113	11	18	29
1984	90	92	182	17	24	41
Total	144	151	295	28	42	70
14th						
1985	48	59	107	8	17	25
1986	64	90	154	19	15	34
Total	112	149	261	27	32	59
15th						
1987	47	57	104	18	22	40
1988	94	88	182	36	33	69
Total	141	145	286	54	55	109
16th						
1989	60	59	119	42	31	73
1990	103	112	215	38	45	83
Total	163	171	334	80	76	156
17th						
1991	52	54	106	27	34	61
1992	74	75	149	21	29	50
Total	126	129	255	48	63	111

Source: Final Status of Bills and Resolutions, Statistical Summary, Legislative Affairs Agency.
 Statistics used: House Bills and Resolutions -- Number that passed the Senate.
 Senate Bills and Resolutions -- Number that passed the House.

Prepared by the Legislative Research Agency, August 1992.

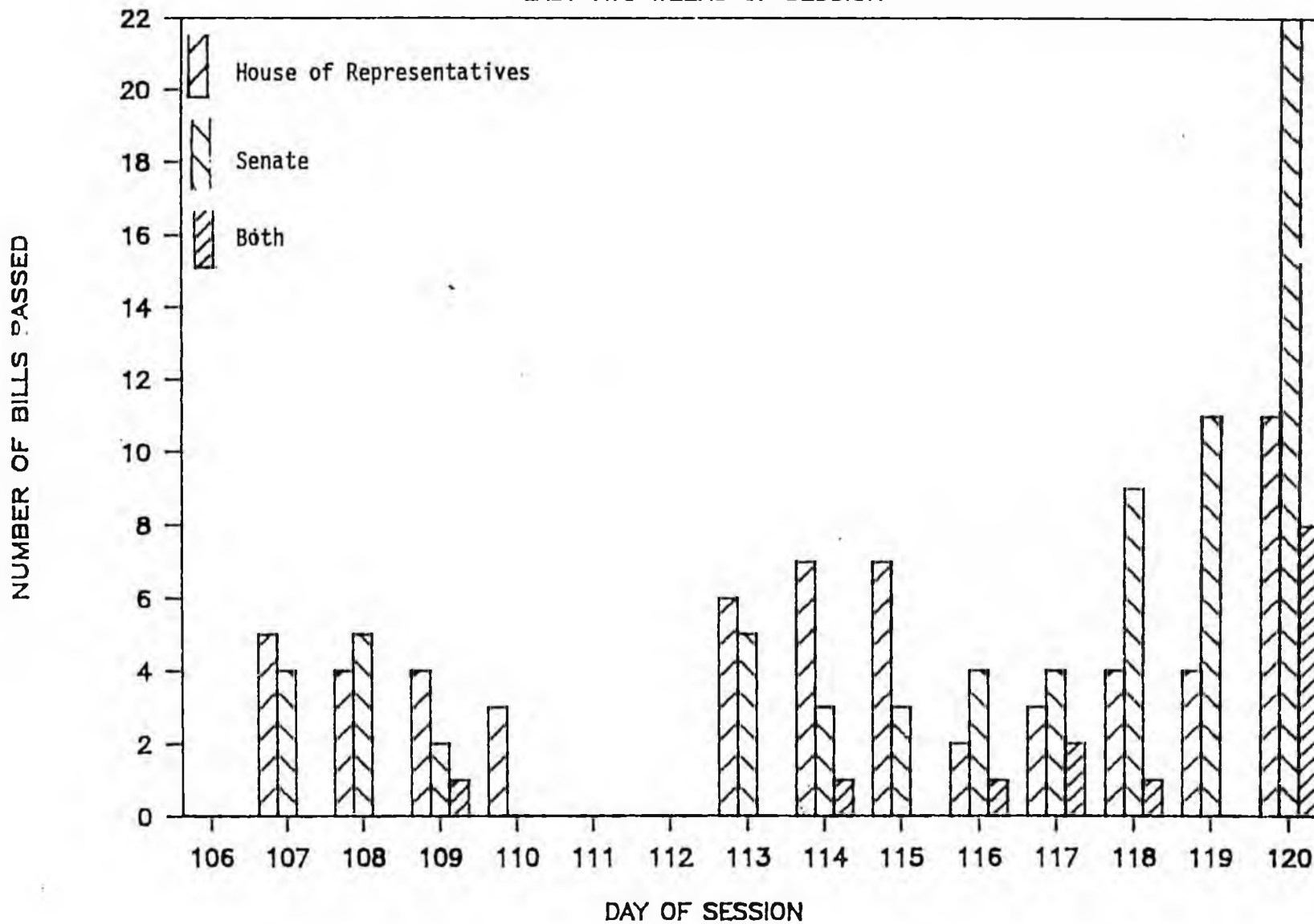
BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE — 1985

LAST TWO WEEKS OF SESSION



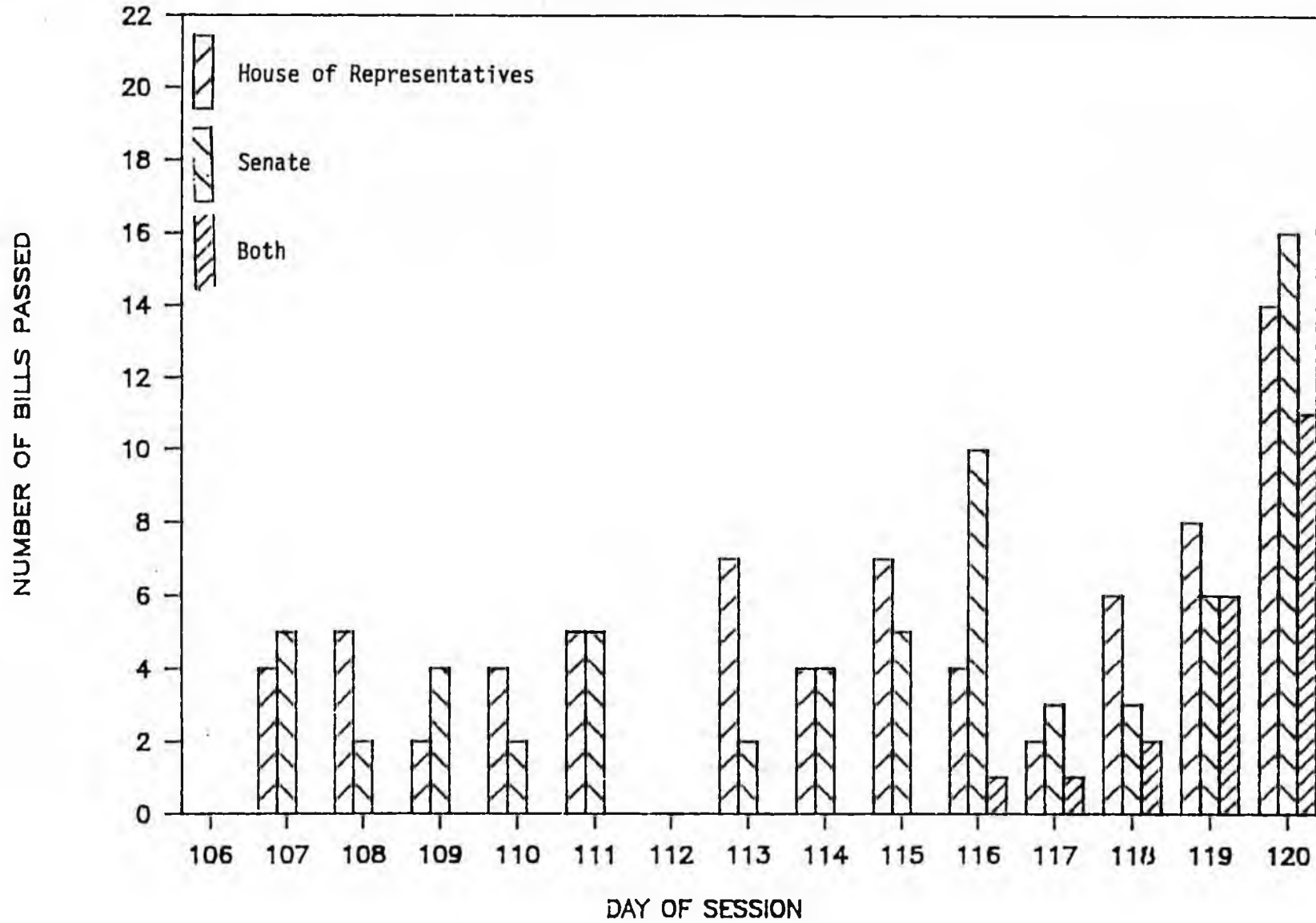
BILLS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE — 1986

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).

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

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

Prepared by the House Research Agency, January 1985, (88.11351; 100287-12).

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

Prepared by the House Research Agency, January 1988, (88-11352; 100287-12).

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
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Prepared by the House Research Agency, January 1988, (88-113s3; 100287-12).

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SESSION LENGTH AND PERCENTAGE OF DAYS WITH FLOOR SESSIONS, 1981-2000

LEGISLATURE	YEAR	HOUSE				SENATE			
		SPEAKER	SESSION LENGTH(1)	DAYS NOT IN SESSION(2)	PERCENTAGE OF DAYS IN SESSION	PRESIDENT	SESSION LENGTH(1)	DAYS NOT IN SESSION(2)	PERCENTAGE OF DAYS IN SESSION
Twelfth	1981(4)	J. Duncan	165	45	68%	J. Kerttula	164	46	73%
	1982	J. Duncan	143	54		J. Kerttula	144	38	
Thirteenth	1983	J. Hayes	161	62	64%	J. Kerttula	162	45	71%
	1984	J. Hayes	152	53		J. Kerttula	152	46	
Fourteenth (First legislature under 120-day session limit)	1985(4)	B. Grussendorf	119	50	57%	D. Bennett	119	33	73%
	1986	B. Grussendorf	120	52		D. Bennett	120	33	
Fifteenth	1987(4)	B. Grussendorf	122	54	58%	J. Falks	121	33	72%
	1988	B. Grussendorf	121	49		J. Falks	121	36	
Sixteenth	1989	S. Colten	121	50	61%	T. Kelly	121	32	74%
	1990(4)	S. Colten	122(3)	46		T. Kelly	121	33	
Seventeenth	1991	B. Grussendorf	122(3)	54	57%	R. Ellason	121	55	55%
	1992(4)	B. Grussendorf	122(3)	53		R. Ellason	121	56	
Eighteenth	1993	R. Barnes	121	54	57%	R. Halford	121	44	60%
	1994(4)	R. Barnes	121	51		R. Halford	121	54	
Nineteenth	1995	G. Phillips	121	48	59%	D. Pearce	121	42	60%
	1996(4)	G. Phillips	122(3)	54		D. Pearce	122(3)	54	
Twentieth	1997	G. Phillips	119	50	59%	M. Miller	119	48	65%
	1998(4)	G. Phillips	121	49		M. Miller	121	37	
Twenty-First	1999(4)	B. Porter	121	52	56%	D. Pearce	121	38	69%
	2000(4)	B. Porter	115	53		D. Pearce	115	35	

Notes:

- (1) Session lengths as published in "Summary of Alaska Legislation," Legislative Affairs Agency, Alaska State Legislature.
- (2) Information obtained from Alaska State Legislature's printed House and Senate Journals, and Legislative Affairs Agency Followups Database.
- (3) House adjourned after midnight on the 121st day.
- (4) Legislature went into special session.

Sam Bishop, Opinion Page Editor; 459-7574

1 Feb 1997

FAIRBANKS

Daily News - Miner

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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. 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 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 also is 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.

-Juneau Empire, Jan. 26

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reserves the right to edit or reject any letter.

Did Lippo

Strange sequence smells no good

WASHINGTON — In his "errors were made" press conference, President Clinton became flustered when asked by The Washington Post's John Harris if he had found anything "unusual or suspicious" in large payments by the Lippo Group to Clinton's friend Webster Hubbell just after he was forced out of the Justice Department and before he went to jail.

"I didn't know about it," he insisted. "And I can't imagine who could have ever arranged to do something improper like that and no one around here know about it. It's just not — we — we did not know anything about it."

Later in his answer he added "before it happened," because his blanket denial was untrue. His closest confidential aide, Bruce Lindsey, had already told the Senate he was aware of the payments to the disgraced Hubbell by Clinton's Asian friends. But the president now claims that the "improper" arrangement was kept secret from him "till I read about it in the press."

Consider: The financially desperate Hubbell, who could have sunk the Clintons if he turned against them, received a bundle from the same Asian crew bankrolling Clinton campaigns; he

When bala

Sen. Lott wants Social Security, not highway fund, in the formula

By LAWRENCE M. O'ROURKE

WASHINGTON — Trent Lott, the Senate Republican Leader, has a bit of an inconsistency problem with trust funds.

It's a critical inconsistency because it lies at the center of the debate over whether the Constitution should be amended to require an annual balanced federal budget.

Both the Senate and House intend to vote in February. If each chamber approves the amendment by a two-thirds majority, it will be sent to the states. If three-fourths of the states ratify, the balanced budget amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

The resolution of Lott's inconsistency is pivotal because his issues involve two of America's most popular federal programs: Social Security and the building

May 9, 1997

Vo

The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first"

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM J. TOBIN

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Too darned long

WITH THE end of the 1997 legislative session in sight, let's suggest again that it's time to make a fundamental change in the way Alaska lawmakers do their business.

We're not talking about the conduct or results of this session. We are not criticizing legislators, individually or collectively.

The change that's needed is in the system itself.

Simply put, the state's annual legislative sessions last too long.

As things now stand, lawmakers meet for four months every year.

For one-third of every year, the principal focus of government is on events happening in the state House and Senate. The workings of the bureaucracy may go on, albeit with some considerable distractions from the Capitol, but the attention of the top administrative leaders — the commissioners, their deputies and various department heads — is riveted on what is happening in the Legislature.

Once adjournment is reached, each department of the government spends the next three months dealing with implementation of any new laws that affect their respective operations, and struggling with financial changes caused by budget cuts and changes in line-item appropriations.

And during the final one-third of the year the administration — all the departments, commissioners, deputy commissioners and workers down the line — must concentrate on planning for the next session, preparing new bills for introduction, working on the next budget, and generally gearing up to do battle all over again.

It's a wonder anything gets done.

THERE IS a solution.

By statute or by constitutional amendment, it should be mandated that the Legislature handle the state budget process on a two-year cycle — rather than dealing with appropriations annually.

Every other year, legislators should meet for a short session — 45 days at the maximum — to consider only a biennial budget. No other legislation would be considered, other than that required to address items that are judged to be absolute emergencies.

On the alternate years, the legislators would meet to consider general legislation — no budget work at all. Without the need to deal with budgets and funding, the work of this session would not require lawmakers to be in Juneau for four months of the year.

Maybe, under this scenario, they could get the work done in 60 days. Certainly 90 would be sufficient, under any circumstances.

The grim need for legislators to be in Juneau for a third of the year would be eliminated. And the administration would have much more time to concentrate on the job of running the state.

This is not rocket science. This is not plowing new fields in government. Any number of states now operate, very successfully, in

Thumbs up to discussion of a shorter legislative session.

The group of freshman and sophomore representatives investigating the measure raise some strong arguments for a more compact session. A number of other states have shorter sessions than Alaska's 121 days.

The Wyoming Legislature meets for not more than 40 days in odd-numbered years in General Session and for approximately 20 days in even numbered years for a Budget Session. South Dakota conducts the state's business in an annual 40-day session. Kentucky for the first time this year injected a 30-day session between its traditional 90-day biennial sessions.

Many Alaska legislators, especially first timers, become frustrated with the slow, unproductive pace of the first half of the session. A shorter session would require a greater sense of urgency and allow for far less posturing and lobbying.

A House State Affairs subcommittee this week considered four proposed constitutional amendments, all of which would reduce the length of the session. Rep. Lisa Murkowski's amendment calls for the state budget to follow a two-year cycle, noting that more long range planning would need to come first.

There are many extenuating factors to examine before deciding on the merits of a shorter session, however, the efficiencies of short sessions are well proven in other states. A shorter session may look pretty good to our state legislators if they are going to be moving into a vacant Wal-Mart building in Wasilla as suggested this week by Mark Chryson, a sponsor of the petition to move the legislature from Juneau to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough near Anchorage.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

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Shorter session, better government

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. If passed, House Joint Resolution No. 1 would require a vote of the people.

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Sec. 24.05.090. Regular sessions. The legislature shall convene at the capital each year on the second Monday in January at 10:00 a.m.; however, following a gubernatorial election year, the legislature shall convene on the third Tuesday in January at 10:00 a.m. Except as provided in this section, each legislature shall have a duration of two years and shall consist of a "First Regular Session," which shall meet in the odd-numbered years, and a "Second Regular Session," which shall meet in the even-numbered years, and any special session or sessions that the governor or legislature may find necessary to call. (§ 9 ch 157 SLA 1959; am § 2 ch 91 SLA 1969; am § 1 ch 8 SLA 1973; am § 2 ch 143 SLA 1975; am § 80 ch 6 SLA 1984; am § 2 ch 72 SLA 1996)

Cross references. — For related constitutional provisions, see Alaska Const., art. II, § 8.

Effect of amendments. — The 1996 amendment, effective September 17, 1996, substituted "Tuesday"

for "Monday" near the end of the first sentence and made minor stylistic changes.

Collateral references. — 81A C.J.S., States, § 48.

Sec. 24.05.100. Special sessions. (a) The legislature may hold a special session not exceeding 30 calendar days in length. The special session shall be called in either of the following ways:

(1) The governor may call the legislature into special session by issuing a proclamation at least 15 days in advance of the convening date stated in the proclamation. At a special session called by the governor, legislation is limited to the subjects designated by the governor in the proclamation or to the subjects presented by the governor, and to reconsideration of legislation, if any, vetoed following a regular session of that legislature.

(2) The legislature may call itself into special session if two-thirds of the membership responds in the affirmative to a poll conducted by the presiding officer of each house. Each presiding officer may initiate a poll by their joint agreement, and each shall initiate a poll upon the request of 25 per cent of the membership of each house, expressed in writing and signed by those members. When two-thirds of the membership to which the legislature is entitled responds in the affirmative, the president of the senate and speaker of the house shall jointly announce the result of the poll and a date for the convening of the special session. If one of the presiding officers is deceased, has resigned, or is incapacitated, the presiding officer of the other house may conduct the poll of the members of both houses.

(b) A special session may be held at any location in the state. If a special session called under (a)(1) of this section is to be convened at a location other than at the capital, the governor shall designate the location in the proclamation. If a special session called under (a)(2) of this section is to be convened at a location other than at the capital, the presiding officers shall agree to and designate the location in the poll conducted of the members of both houses. (§ 10 ch 157 SLA 1959; am § 1 ch 67 SLA 1975; am § 1 ch 100 SLA 1982)

Cross references. — For related constitutional provisions, see Alaska Const., art. II, § 9.

Collateral references. — 72 Am. Jur. 2d, States,

Territories, and Dependencies, § 59; 73 Am. Jur. 2d, Statutes, §§ 35-37.

81A C.J.S., States, § 49.

Sec. 24.05.110. Joint sessions. The houses of the legislature shall convene in joint session when required or authorized by the constitution and the rules of the legislature. (§ 11 ch 157 SLA 1959)

Sec. 24.05.120. Rules. At the beginning of the first regular session of each legislature, both houses shall adopt uniform rules of procedure for enacting bills into law and adopting resolutions. The rules in effect at the last regular session of the immediately preceding legislature serve as the temporary rules of the legislature until the adoption of permanent rules. (§ 12 ch 157 SLA 1959; am § 6 ch 100 SLA 1963)

Cross references. — For related constitutional provisions, see Alaska Const., art. II, § 12.

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Article II

The Legislature

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE POWER; MEMBERSHIP. The legislative power of the State is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate with a membership of twenty and a house of representatives with a membership of forty.

SECTION 2. MEMBERS' QUALIFICATIONS. A member of the legislature shall be a qualified voter who has been a resident of Alaska for at least three years and of the district from which elected for at least one year, immediately preceding his filing for office. A senator shall be at least twenty-five years of age and a representative at least twenty-one years of age.

SECTION 3. ELECTION AND TERMS. Legislators shall be elected at general elections. Their terms begin on the fourth Monday of the January following election unless otherwise provided by law. The term of representatives shall be two years, and the term of senators, four years. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

SECTION 4. VACANCIES. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled for the unexpired term as provided by law. If no provision is made, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment.

SECTION 5. DISQUALIFICATIONS. No legislator may hold any other office or position of profit under the United States or the State. During the term for which elected and for one year thereafter, no legislator may be nominated, elected, or appointed to any other office or position of profit which has been created, or the salary or emoluments of which have been increased, while he was a member. This section shall not prevent any person from seeking or holding the office of governor, secretary of state, or member of Congress. This section shall not apply to employment by or election to a constitutional convention.

SECTION 6. IMMUNITIES. Legislators may not be held to answer before any other tribunal for any statement made in the exercise of their legislative duties while the legislature is in session. Members attending, going 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.

SECTION 7. SALARY AND EXPENSES. 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. 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.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL SESSIONS. 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.

SECTION 10. ADJOURNMENT. 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.

SECTION 11. INTERIM COMMITTEES. There shall be a legislative council, and the legislature may establish other interim committees. The council and other interim committees may meet between legislative sessions. They may perform duties and employ personnel as provided by the legislature. Their members may receive an allowance for expenses while performing their duties.

SECTION 12. RULES. The houses of each legislature shall adopt uniform rules of procedure. Each house may choose its officers and employees. Each is the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and may expel a member with the concurrence of two-thirds of its members. Each shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the membership of each house constitutes a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel attendance of absent members. The legislature shall regulate lobbying.

SECTION 13. FORM OF BILLS. Every bill shall be confined to one subject unless it is an appropriation bill or one codifying, revising, or rearranging existing laws. Bills for appropriations shall be confined to appropriations. The subject of each bill shall be expressed in the title. The enacting clause shall be: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska."

SECTION 14. PASSAGE OF BILLS. The legislature shall establish the procedure for enactment of bills into law. No bill may become law unless it has passed three readings in each house on three separate days, except that any bill may be advanced from second to third reading on the same day by concurrence of three-fourths of the house considering it. No bill may become law without an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of each house. The yeas and nays on final passage shall be entered in the journal.

SECTION 15. VETO. The governor may veto bills passed by the legislature. He may, by veto, strike or reduce items in appropriation bills. He shall return any vetoed bill, with a statement of his objections, to the house of origin.

SECTION 16. ACTION UPON VETO. Upon receipt of a veto message during a regular session of the legislature, the legislature shall meet immediately in joint session and reconsider passage of the vetoed bill or item. Bills to raise revenue and appropriation bills or items, although vetoed, become law by affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of the legislature. Other vetoed bills become law by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the legislature. Bills vetoed after adjournment of the first regular session of the legislature shall be reconsidered by the legislature sitting as one body no later than the fifth day of the next regular or special session of that legislature. Bills vetoed after adjournment of the second regular session shall be reconsidered by the legislature sitting as one body no later than the fifth day of a special session of that legislature, if one is called. The vote on reconsideration of a vetoed bill shall be entered on the journals of both houses.

SECTION 17. BILLS NOT SIGNED. A bill becomes law if, while the legislature is in session, the governor neither signs nor vetoes it within fifteen days, Sundays excepted, after its delivery to him. If the legislature is not in session and the governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill within twenty days, Sundays excepted, after its delivery to him, the bill becomes law.

SECTION 18. EFFECTIVE DATE. Laws passed by the legislature become effective ninety days after enactment. The legislature may, by concurrence of two-thirds of the membership of each house, provide for another effective date.

SECTION 19. LOCAL OR SPECIAL ACTS. The legislature shall pass no local or special act if a general act can be made applicable. Whether a general act can be made applicable shall be subject to judicial determination. Local acts necessitating appropriations by a political subdivision may not become effective unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in the subdivision affected.

SECTION 20. IMPEACHMENT. All civil officers of the State are subject to impeachment by the legislature. Impeachment shall originate in the senate and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members. The motion for impeachment shall list fully the basis for the proceeding. Trial on impeachment shall be conducted by the house of representatives. A supreme court justice designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. The judgment may not extend beyond removal from office, but shall not prevent proceedings in the courts on the same or related charges.

SECTION 21. SUITS AGAINST THE STATE. The legislature shall establish procedures for suits against the State.



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