

SJR

6

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/31/03

FURTHER: Judiciary
Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 5/2/03
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 5/9/03

State Affairs Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

SJR 6 CONST AM: 90 DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

and recommends:

be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)

adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee

further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

same title

new title

House Bill:

same title

technical title

new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
leg	5/6/03	✓		1
Gov	5/6/03	✓		2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>		✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>		✓		

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR 6
 () Publish Date: _____

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 Senators Guess, Dyson..
 Requester Senate State Affairs Component No. 732

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services	0.0	(516.0)	(516.0)	(516.0)	(516.0)	(516.0)
Travel	0.0	(330.0)	(330.0)	(330.0)	(330.0)	(330.0)
Contractual	0.0	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Supplies	0.0	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)	(21.0)
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)
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	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)	(888.0)

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)

SJR 6 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 2005. The Legislature would realize a cost savings of approximately \$29.6 per day for each day of a shorter session. Shortening the session by 30 days would result in a cost savings of, 30 times \$29.6, or \$888.0 per year.

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 legislative staff payroll costs are charged to operating expense accounts during the interim. Staff salaries for most

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director Phone 465-3850
 Division Administrative Services Date/Time 5/6/03 8:40 AM
 Approved by: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director Date 5/6/2003
 Agency Legislative Affairs Agency

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. SJR 6

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

legislative staffers are charged to session during the session. The legislative payroll is higher during a legislative session. If the regular 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 12.0 per day. If session were shortened more long term per diem claims would be filed during the year, approximately 1.0 per day 12.0 - 1.0 = 11.0	11.0	30	330.0
Contractual			
Telephones, chaplin fees, copier maintenance	0.7	30	21.0
Supplies	0.7	30	21.0
Lounge supplies			
Printshop paper supplies	_____		_____
	29.6		888.0
Current number of session days	120		
Proposed number of session days	90		

	30		

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR6
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
 Title Constitutional Amendment relating to BRU Elections
the duration of regular session Component Elections
 Sponsor Senator Guess
 Requester Senate State Affairs Component No. 21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual		1.5				
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	1.5	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	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark 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)
 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: Lauri Allred Phone 465-5347
 Division: Division of Elections Date/Time 5/6/03 10:28 AM
 Approved by: Laura A. Glaiser, Director Date 5/6/2003
 Agency: Office of the Lt. Governor, Division of Elections

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR GRETCHEN GUESS

Sponsor Statement

SJR 6

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

Currently, the Constitution requires the Alaska State Legislature meet for no more than 120 days each session. SJR 6 proposes an amendment to Alaska's Constitution limiting regular legislative sessions from the current 120 days to 90 consecutive calendar days. If this resolution passes, the proposed constitutional amendment would be placed on the next general election ballot.

Ninety days is more than enough time for the Legislature to complete its business. A slowing economy and a need for Alaska to tighten its belt only adds to the common sense approach of shortening the legislative session. Shorter sessions would save the state approximately \$900,000 per year in per diem and staffing costs.

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 in November of 1984. Since that time, it has been proven the Alaska Legislature can operate within a time limit.

Thank you for your consideration.

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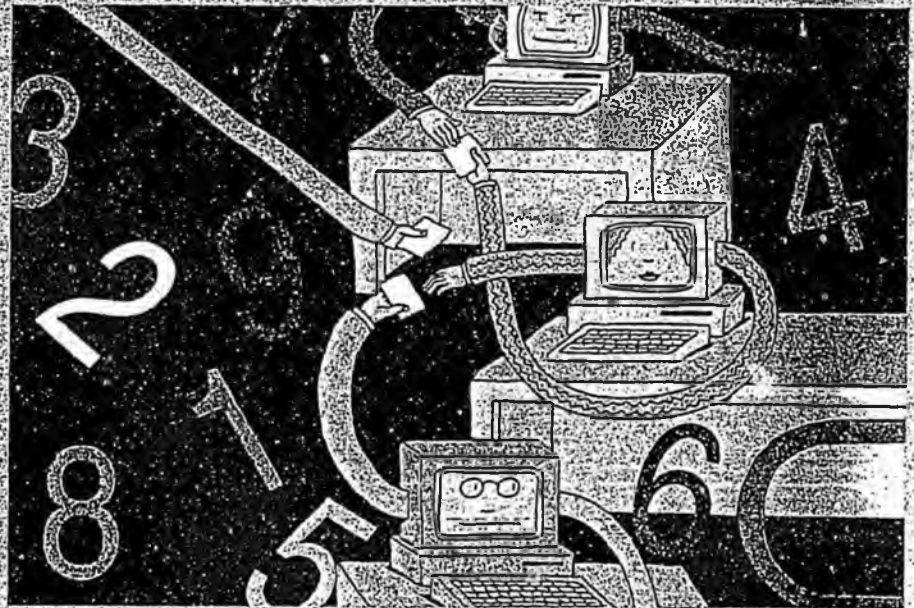
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

ALABAMA	Feb. 1 - May 15
ALASKA	Jan. 10 - May 9
ARIZONA	Jan. 10 - late April
ARKANSAS	No regular session *
CALIFORNIA	Jan. 3 - Aug. 31
COLORADO	Jan. 12 - May 10
CONNECTICUT	Feb. 9 - May 3
DELAWARE	Jan. 11 - June 30
FLORIDA	March 7 - May 5
GEORGIA	Jan. 10 - mid-March
HAWAII	Jan. 19 - early May
IDAHO	Jan. 10 - mid-March
ILLINOIS	Jan. 12 - *
INDIANA	Jan. 10 - March 16
IOWA	Jan. 10 - late April
KANSAS	Jan. 10 - late April
KENTUCKY	Jan. 4 - April 12
LOUISIANA	April 24 - June 7
MAINE	Jan. 5 - April 19
MARYLAND	Jan. 12 - April 10
MASSACHUSETTS	Jan. 6 - *
MICHIGAN	Jan. 12 - *
MINNESOTA	Feb. 3 - late April
MISSISSIPPI	Jan. 4 - May 7
MISSOURI	Jan. 5 - May 30
MONTANA	No regular session *
NEBRASKA	Jan. 5 - mid-April
NEVADA	No regular session *
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jan. 5 - mid-June
NEW JERSEY	Jan. 11 - *
NEW MEXICO	Jan. 18 - Feb. 16
NEW YORK	Jan. 5 - *
NORTH CAROLINA	May 8 - July
NORTH DAKOTA	No regular session *
OHIO	Jan. 3 - *
OKLAHOMA	Feb. 7 - May 26
OREGON	No regular session *
PENNSYLVANIA	Jan. 4 - *
RHODE ISLAND	Jan. 4 - late June
SOUTH CAROLINA	Jan. 11 - June 1
SOUTH DAKOTA	Jan. 11 - mid-March
TENNESSEE	Jan. 11 - late April
TEXAS	No regular session *
UTAH	Jan. 17 - March 1
VERMONT	Jan. 5 - early May
VIRGINIA	Jan. 12 - March 11
WASHINGTON	Jan. 10 - March 9
WEST VIRGINIA	Jan. 12 - March 11
WISCONSIN	Jan. 3 - *
WYOMING	Feb. 14 - March 10
AMERICAN SAMOA	Jan. 10 - *
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Jan. 2 - *
GUAM	Jan. 10 - *
PUERTO RICO	Jan. 10 - June 30
VIRGIN ISLAND*	Jan. 10 - *

* Legislature meets throughout the year

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2003 LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION CALENDAR

as of May 6, 2003

State	Convenes	Adjourns	Comments
Alabama	Mar 4	Jun 16	Organizational session begins Jan. 14, 2003
Alaska	Jan 21	May 21	
Arizona	Jan 13	Mid May	
Arkansas	Jan 13	April 16	
California	Dec 2, 2002	mid-Sept	
Colorado	Jan 8	May 7	
Connecticut	Jan 8	Jun 4	
Delaware	Jan 14	Jun 30	
Florida	Mar 4	May 2	Organizational session begins Nov 19, 2002
Georgia	Jan 13	April 25	
Hawaii	Jan 15	May 1	
Idaho	Jan 6	May 3	Organizational session begins Dec. 5, 2002
Illinois	Jan 8	*	
Indiana	Jan 07	Apr 27	Organizational session begins Nov 19, 2002
Iowa	Jan 13	May 2	

Kansas	Jan 13	Early May	
Kentucky	Jan 7	Mar 25	
Louisiana	Mar 31	Jun 23	
Maine	Dec 4, 2002	Jun 18	
Maryland	Jan 8	Apr 7	
Massachusetts	Jan 1	*	
Michigan	Jan 8	*	
Minnesota	Jan 7	May 19	
Mississippi	Jan 7	Apr 6	
Missouri	Jan 8	May 30	
Montana	Jan 6	April 26	
Nebraska	Jan 8	early June	
Nevada	Feb 3	Jun 2	
New Hampshire	Jan 8	late June	Organizational day is Dec 4, 2002
New Jersey	Jan 14	*	
New Mexico	Jan 21	Mar 22	
New York	Jan 8	*	
North Carolina	Jan 29	early July	
North Dakota	Jan 7	Apr 25	Organizational session is Dec 2-4, 2002
Ohio	Jan 6	*	
Oklahoma	Feb 3	May 30	Organizational day is Jan. 7, 2003
Oregon	Jan 13	mid-July	
Pennsylvania	Jan 7	*	
Rhode Island	Jan 7	late June	
South Carolina	Jan 14	Jun 5	
South Dakota	Jan 14	March 24	

Tennessee	Jan 14	late May	
Texas	Jan 14	Jun 2	
Utah	Jan 20	Mar 5	
Vermont	Jan 8	mid-May	
Virginia	Jan 8	Feb 22	Odd-yr session traditionally is extended 15 days; if done, adjournment will change to Feb. 22
Washington	Jan 13	Apr 27	
West Virginia	Jan 8	Mar 16	
Wisconsin	Jan 6	*	
Wyoming	Jan 14	March 6	
American Samoa	Jan 13		Second part begins July 14, 2003
District of Columbia	Jan 2	*	
Guam	Jan 13	*	
Puerto Rico	Jan 13	Jun 30	Second part runs Sept-Oct
Virgin Islands	Jan 13	*	

Key:

*=Legislature meets throughout the year

Contact for More Information

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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) 1982	J. Duncan	165	45	68%	J. Kerttula	164	46	73%
		J. Duncan	143	54		J. Kerttula	144	38	
Thirteenth	1983 1984	J. Hayes	161	62	64%	J. Kerttula	162	45	71%
		J. Hayes	152	53		J. Kerttula	152	46	
Fourteenth (First legislature under 120-day session limit)	1985(4) 1986	B. Grussendorf	119	50	57%	D. Bennett	119	33	73%
		B. Grussendorf	120	52		D. Bennett	120	33	
Fifteenth	1987(4) 1988	B. Grussendorf	122	54	58%	J. Faks	121	33	72%
		B. Grussendorf	121	49		J. Faks	121	36	
Sixteenth	1989 1990(4)	S. Colten	121	50	61%	T. Kelly	121	32	74%
		S. Colten	122(3)	46		T. Kelly	121	33	
Seventeenth	1991 1992(4)	B. Grussendorf	122(3)	54	57%	R. Eliason	121	55	55%
		B. Grussendorf	122(3)	53		R. Ellason	121	56	
Eighteenth	1993 1994(4)	R. Barnes	121	54	57%	R. Halford	121	44	60%
		R. Barnes	121	51		R. Halford	121	54	
Nineteenth	1995 1996(4)	G. Phillips	121	46	59%	D. Pearce	121	42	60%
		G. Phillips	122(3)	54		D. Pearce	122(3)	54	
Twentieth	1997 1998(4)	G. Phillips	119	50	59%	M. Miller	119	48	65%
		G. Phillips	121	49		M. Miller	121	37	
Twenty-First	1999(4) 2000(4)	B. Porter	121	52	56%	D. Pearce	121	38	69%
		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 Folioviews Database.

(3)House adjourned after midnight on the 121st day.

(4)Legislature went into special session.

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(Published: April 19, 2003)

LENGTH OF SESSION STILL A ...Worthy topic

WE'VE SEEN no reports that the Legislature is giving much consideration to a bill that would shorten the length of time Alaska lawmakers hang around Juneau every year.

Too bad. The measure deserves passage, promptly and without more months of dilly-dallying.

As things now stand, Alaska pays for legislative sessions that last four months every year.

A third of every year, year in and year out, is spent with the state House and Senate going at it -- trying to make political points and enacting laws to serve 600,000 people. How many laws do that many people really need every year, anyway?

Arizona's Legislature meets every year, but it does its work in three months. Idaho, another state where comparisons can be made to Alaska, also meets on an annual basis, but its sessions last only 81 days.

In Utah, legislators meet each year for just 44 days.

Wyoming's annual sessions last for only 55 days.

In Oregon, legislators gather only every other year for a session lasting 186 days.

Montana lawmakers meet in Helena every other year, and then for only 109 days.

Alaskans are simply nuts to support an annual session lasting one-third of every year.

WE'VE LONG contended that all government work stops in Juneau during the time the Legislature is in session -- because commissioners, department heads, division chiefs and their support staffs are totally fixed on what's happening to them in the lawmaking chambers.

Then, for the next three months, not much progress is made either because all the departments are kept busy trying to figure out what happened to their agencies and they concentrate on trying to figure out how to deal with all the new laws that affect their operations.

The final three months of the year are then spent trying to get ready for the next session -- with each agency building arguments on why it needs more money, more people, more authority.

It is a goofy system that does more harm than good.

The legislation pending to shorten the sessions was introduced some weeks ago by Democratic Sen. Gretchen Guess of Anchorage. It proposes that legislators should do their job in 90 days and then hit the road for home.

That's still three months in Juneau. Surely that should be time aplenty.

And think of the money that would be saved.

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Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • February 11, 2003

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Fax: 465-5125, Jordan_Marshall@legis.state.ak.us**

90-Day Session Resolution Debated

Senator Guess Calls for More Efficient Sessions

JUNEAU – Noting the need for greater efficiency in government, Senator Gretchen Guess (D-Anchorage) presents her “90 Day Legislative Session” resolution the Senate State Affairs Committee today. Senate Joint Resolution (SJR 6) proposes to shorten the legislative session to 90 days.

“Ninety days is more than enough time for the Legislature to complete its business,” said Sen. Guess. “We’re looking for efficiency in government anywhere we can find it. A shorter session is common sense.”

“Prior to 1984, the Legislature had no time limit on the number of days it could remain in session,” said Sen. Guess. “After the voters approved the present 120-day session in November of that year, the Alaska Legislature has proven it can operate within a time limit.”

SJR 6 proposes to amend the Alaska Constitution, limiting the State Legislature’s regular sessions to 90 consecutive calendar days. If this resolution passes, the proposed constitutional amendment would be placed on the next general election ballot.

Shorter sessions would save the state approximately \$900,000 per year in per diem and staffing costs.

Pending approval in Senate State Affairs, SJR 6 will be heard next in Senate Judiciary.

###

Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward

Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Johnny Ellis, Sen. Kim Elton, Sen. Gretchen Guess, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, Sen. Donny Olson, Rep. Ethan Berkowitz, Rep. Sharon Cissna, Rep. Harry Crawford, Rep. Eric Croft, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Max Gruenberg, Rep. David Guttenberg, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Rep. Beth Kerttula, Rep. Albert Kookesh, Rep. Carl Moses