

HB

71

<TARGET><BILL>HB 71</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
71</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

*duplicate library
this info is in the packet
but in B+W instead of color*

90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey

1. I am a		Response Percent	Response Count
Member of the House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100.0%	31
House Staffer residing outside of Juneau for Interim	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
House Staffer residing in Juneau for Interim	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
		answered question	31
		skipped question	0

2. I have worked in the Legislature since		Response Percent	Response Count
Prior to the 1979 constitutional amendment that established the 120-day session limit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.2%	1
Prior to the 2008 change establishing a 90-day session limit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	90.3%	28
The institution of the 90-day limit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.5%	2
		answered question	31
		skipped question	0





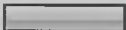
3. Do you hold a job in addition to the working in the Legislature?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="text"/>	51.6%	16
No	<input type="text"/>	48.4%	15
<i>answered question</i>			31
<i>skipped question</i>			0

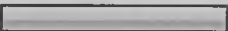


4. Do members of your family join you in Juneau for most or all of the legislative session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="text"/>	58.1%	18
Yes	<input type="text"/>	41.9%	13
<i>answered question</i>			31
<i>skipped question</i>			0

5. The impact of the shorter session on my finances has been			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly negative	<input type="text"/>	10.0%	3
Negative	<input type="text"/>	26.7%	8
Neutral	<input type="text"/>	46.7%	14
Positive	<input type="text"/>	16.7%	5
Strongly positive		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

6. How would you describe the impact that session length has on moving household goods, vehicles, pets, etc.?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	37.9%	11
Hardly an impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	17.2%	5
Somewhat of an impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	27.6%	8
A major impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	13.8%	4
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.4%	1
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

7. Does the shorter session make it more difficult for you to find housing in Juneau			
		Response Percent	Response Count
More difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	20.0%	6
Marginally more difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	20.0%	6
Not more difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	56.7%	17
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

8. How does the shorter session affect your family and dependents?			Response Percent	Response Count
Positively			9.7%	3
Somewhat positively			16.1%	5
Neutrally			41.9%	13
Somewhat negatively			9.7%	3
Negatively			19.4%	6
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>		3.2%	1
			<i>answered question</i>	31
			<i>skipped question</i>	0

9. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your health and sleep schedule			Response Percent	Response Count
Negative			36.7%	11
Somewhat Negative			23.3%	7
Neutral			30.0%	9
Somewhat Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>		3.3%	1
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>		3.3%	1
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>		3.3%	1
			<i>answered question</i>	30
			<i>skipped question</i>	1

10. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your leisure time			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.5%	2
Somewhat positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.5%	2
Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.0%	9
Somewhat negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	16.1%	5
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	38.7%	12
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.2%	1
<i>answered question</i>			31
<i>skipped question</i>			0

11. How would you say the shorter session impacts the hiring and retention of staff?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positively	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
Somewhat positively	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Neutrally	<input type="checkbox"/>	30.0%	9
Somewhat negatively	<input type="checkbox"/>	40.0%	12
Negatively	<input type="checkbox"/>	26.7%	8
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

12. Do you feel that Legal Services responded to your requests in a timely basis during the 90-day session?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	56.7%	17
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	43.3%	13
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

13. Do you believe that going to a 90-day session from a 120-day session cuts down on the Legislature's operating costs by decreasing "paper, copy costs, transportation, etc" over the two-year term of the legislature?


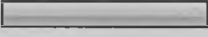


		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	92.9%	26
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.1%	2
<i>answered question</i>			28
<i>skipped question</i>			3

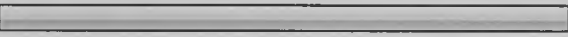

14. Do you believe that you and your staff are able to communicate with your constituents as well during a 90-day session as you were during a 120-day session?


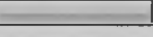
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	13.3%	4
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	83.3%	25
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

15. Did you travel to your district less during a 90-day session than you did during a 120-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	17.2%	5
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	79.3%	23
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.4%	1
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

16. If less, do you consider that detrimental to you or your legislative effectiveness?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	84.6%	22
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	11.5%	3
No effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.8%	1
<i>answered question</i>			26
<i>skipped question</i>			5

17. How would you describe the majority of comments you've heard from constituents regarding the 90-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		26.7%	8
Somewhat negative		33.3%	10
Neutral		33.3%	10
Somewhat positive		6.7%	2
Positive		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

18. Do you feel that during a 90-day session session there was less time for you to schedule personal meetings with constituents and members of the public during session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		93.3%	28
No		6.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

19. A shorter session generates more interim hearings. Do you think that the statewide public receives the notification and information as relates to these interim hearings as adequately as during session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		75.0%	21
Yes		25.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>			28
<i>skipped question</i>			3

20. Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?		
		Response Count
		13
<i>answered question</i>		13
<i>skipped question</i>		18

21. Do you believe that the 90-day session allowed your personal legislation to be adequately evaluated by committees of referral?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	90.0%	27
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
No different than 120-day session	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

22. What effect do you believe the shorter session has had on the amount of testimony that legislation receives?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Much less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony	<input type="checkbox"/>	46.7%	14
Less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony	<input type="checkbox"/>	50.0%	15
No effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
More testimony/less time constraints upon testimony	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Much more testimony/less time constraints upon testimony	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

23. Do you believe that a shortened session gives greater power to special interest groups to kill legislation that they oppose by having it held in committee without a hearing?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	82.8%	24
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.9%	2
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.3%	3
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

24. Do you believe that a 90-day session gives committee chairs a greater degree of power to kill legislation?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	13.8%	4
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	75.9%	22
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.3%	3
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

25. Do you perceive an increase in pressure to move bills from committee with a single hearing because of the reduced session length?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.3%	1
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	86.7%	26
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

26. Do you believe that bills that would otherwise be heard by committees were held because there was a perception that they might take up too much of the committee's time?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="text"/>	79.3%	23
No	<input type="text"/>	13.8%	4
No opinion	<input type="text"/>	6.9%	2
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

27. Fewer bills were introduced in the 90-day session than the previous 120-day session. Did the decrease in the number of bills significantly benefit the legislative process?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="text"/>	23.3%	7
No	<input type="text"/>	46.7%	14
No effect	<input type="text"/>	30.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

28. Has the 90-day session ever prevented you or your office from introducing complicated or controversial legislation because you worried that it might require too much committee time?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="text"/>	66.7%	20
Yes	<input type="text"/>	33.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

29. Do you believe more or less time is spent discussing resolutions instead of bills due to the shortened session?

		Response Percent	Response Count
More time	<input type="checkbox"/>	69.0%	20
Less time	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.9%	2
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	24.1%	7
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

30. Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?

		Response Count
		6
<i>answered question</i>		6
<i>skipped question</i>		25

31. The statement in support of the ballot initiative establishing the 90-day session in 2006 claims that twenty-seven other states have a session shorter than 120-days. Do you see value in comparing the session length in Alaska to that of other states given the issues dealt with by the Alaska State Legislature?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	83.3%	25
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	2
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

32. Do you believe that reducing the time a legislator spends away from family and work from 120 to 90 days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="text"/>	20.7%	6
No	<input type="text"/>	65.5%	19
No opinion	<input type="text"/>	13.8%	4
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

33. Do you believe that by decreasing the time that the Legislature is convened from 120 days to 90 days this cedes some of the power of the Legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="text"/>	13.8%	4
Yes	<input type="text"/>	86.2%	25
No opinion		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			29
<i>skipped question</i>			2

34. Do you think that after the implementation of the pay commission recommendation (to pay Legislators a flat annual salary of \$50,400 while doing away with a per-diem they get for working on state business when the Legislature isn't in session) Alaskans will want their Legislators to work longer sessions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="text"/>	33.3%	10
No	<input type="text"/>	36.7%	11
No opinion	<input type="text"/>	30.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>			30
<i>skipped question</i>			1

35. Combining all factors, how would you prefer the legislative session to be structured?			Response Percent	Response Count
120 days	<input type="checkbox"/>		66.7%	20
90 days	<input type="checkbox"/>		13.3%	4
90-day session split in two but encompassing no more than 120 days in total (for example 45 days beginning the session, a 30 day break encompassing Energy Council and Easter, followed by a second 45 days)	<input type="checkbox"/>		13.3%	4
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		6.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>				30
<i>skipped question</i>				1

36. Taking into account the effect of the 90-day session on all aspects of the legislative process, does the fact that the session length was established by the initiative process effect your willingness to change the session length?			Response Percent	Response Count
No	<input type="checkbox"/>		73.3%	22
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		26.7%	8
<i>answered question</i>				30
<i>skipped question</i>				1

37. Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?		Response Count
		9
<i>answered question</i>		9
<i>skipped question</i>		22

38. If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?		Response Count
		12
<i>answered question</i>		12
<i>skipped question</i>		19

39. Mark the appropriate circle: If we stay at 90 days do we need to...			Response Percent	Response Count
Shorten the 45-day window after session convenes for the Governor's budget amendments	<input type="radio"/>		65.2%	15
Limit the number of bills sponsored or cosponsored	<input type="radio"/>		21.7%	5
Limit below the current 10 the number of Citations a member may introduce	<input type="radio"/>		13.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>				23
<i>skipped question</i>				8

40. Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.		Response Count
		10
<i>answered question</i>		10
<i>skipped question</i>		21

41. If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

	Response Count
	10
<i>answered question</i>	10
<i>skipped question</i>	21



Rep. Paul Seaton, Chair

HOUSE 90-DAY SESSION EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE***HB 71 – Repealing the 90-day Session Limit***

HB 71 repeals AS 24.05.150(b), the 90-day limit for regular legislative sessions enacted by ballot initiative in 2006. Legislative Council established a 6 member 90-day Session Evaluation Task Force in 2008. The House side of the Task Force surveyed House members and staff to create a basis for a recommendation. Thirty-one House members responded to the survey and the final recommendation was to repeal the 90-day limit.

The Legislature has met for three 90 day sessions and has had the time to experience the advantages and disadvantages of the truncated session. While the personal benefit of a shorter session means less time away from families, homes and private sector jobs, it is the subcommittee's opinion that the 90-day limit on the legislative session does not serve the best interest of the State of Alaska. The survey results demonstrated that most Representatives believed the shortened session rushes legislation, hinders discussion, decreases the public's participation and shifts power to the executive.

Representatives surveyed overwhelmingly felt that less committee time is spent on bills and more bills are passed from committee with only one hearing with a 90-day session. Ninety percent of Representatives surveyed believed the 90-day session did not allow their personal legislation to be adequately evaluated by committees of referral. Eighty-six percent felt there was more pressure to move bills from committee with only a single hearing due to the shortened session. By the time the public is aware of an issue it may have moved from committee.

Legislators' schedules are packed, often starting with breakfast meetings and extending well into the evening hours. There are simply not enough hours in the day to meet with constituents, members of the public, and interest groups that want to communicate a message to their lawmakers. Eighty-three percent of the survey respondents believed they and their staff are not able to communicate with constituents as well during a 90-day session. This leaves legislators more isolated in a policy-making bubble.

With 30 days less in Juneau committees meet less, there is less scrutinizing of the departments, and therefore less oversight of the executive branch. Eighty-six percent of House members surveyed thought decreasing the session length cedes some of the power of the Legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy.

Arguments in favor of a 90-day session should be reevaluated now that we have experience. The sponsors of the 90-day session initiative argued that it would increase the number of candidates, limit committee meetings, and result in a meaningful cost savings. In fact, the number of candidates running for office has been steadily decreasing since the initiative passed in 2006 (16% from 2004 to 2010). On average, 19

Rep. Max Gruenberg

Alaska State Legislature

Rep. Bryce Edgmon



Rep. Paul Seaton, Chair

HOUSE 90-DAY SESSION EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

more interim committee meetings have been held annually with a 90-day session. Obviously the direct cost of a regular session goes down with 30 less days; however even one special session annually can quickly eliminate that savings.

Legislative Affairs has transferred the 'savings,' around \$800,000, from the regular session line item in the budget to the special session line item. A special session is more expensive than a regular session. The Legislature added staff transportation to and from the regular session in response to perceived difficulty hiring staff for the shorter session. All of these factors have numerous costs and benefits, but the survey of House members found that 93% of respondents did not believe that there were significant overall savings to justify the shorter session.

Spending an extra 30 days with friends and families in home districts sounds tempting. However, the trade off in the perceived quality of legislation and the public input is not in the best interest of the State. Shortening the session rushes the legislative process, decreases public participation and gives more power to the governor. It is time to repeal the 90 day session and return to the constitutionally imposed 120 day limit.

Staff contact, Katie Koester 465-2028

Rep. Max Gruenberg



Rep. Bryce Edgmon

Rep. Paul Seaton, Chairman
HOUSE 90-DAY SESSION EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The following report is submitted with the unanimous consent of the House 90-Day Session Evaluation Subcommittee.

Introduction

In 2007 the Legislature passed HB 171 requiring Legislative Council to deliver a report to the full Legislature before the start of the 2010 session “considering issues related to the duration of the regular session and making recommendations regarding the amendment or repeal of any statutes or Uniform Rules implementing the 90-day regular session.”

In 2008 Legislative Council created a subcommittee to assist in creating the 90-day session report. This subcommittee consists of three members of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President. House subcommittee members include Representative Seaton, Chair, Representative Edgmon, and Representative Gruenberg. Senate members are Senator Stevens, Senator Huggins, and Senator Wagoner.

House subcommittee members viewed our task as providing Legislative Council with a basis and recommendation for their report. House subcommittee members felt that we needed baseline information on which to base our recommendations. In order to gather this information the House members on the subcommittee submitted a “90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey” to all House members and House interim staff.

Senate members of the subcommittee determined that they would proceed on a different track and did not participate in the survey. This report exclusively discusses the deliberations of the House portion of the subcommittee hereafter referred to as “the subcommittee”. House members will hereafter be referred to as Representatives.

Survey

An on-line survey provider called "SurveyMonkey" was utilized to deliver the survey. SurveyMonkey is the website of choice for entities such as Council of State Governments and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The survey site allows multiple answer surveys to be filtered and downloaded, at a cost of \$19 per month. The subcommittee maintained this website for three months in order to collect as many responses as possible. The survey was e-mailed to all Representatives, and all interim House staff.

In order to achieve a maximum degree of participation among Representatives and House staff, the subcommittee determined that the survey should be delivered on an anonymous basis. However, it did include the option for respondents to provide their name if they wished.

For purposes of delineating staff responses regarding the impact of the 90-day session on moving expenses and other "personal" issues, the subcommittee determined that staff responses should be segregated between House staff residing in Juneau during the interim, and House staff residing elsewhere in Alaska during the interim, as these personal impacts would likely be different for the two groups.

The survey took into account that some Representatives, as well as many staff members may not have worked prior to the imposition of the 90-day session. An answer option was added to applicable comparative questions stating that the respondent was "unsure" as they have not worked during a 120-day session. In order to achieve objectivity the options for answering the "yes or no" questions were alternated so that one answer or the other was not listed first in order of preference. The subcommittee was also careful to give respondents the option to answer "no opinion" on pertinent questions so that they were not forced into picking one answer or the other if they did not have a position.

The survey contained 40 questions, in four general categories:

1. Impacts of the 90-day session on aspects of the personal lives of Representatives and staff such as moving expenses, housing, recreation time, health, etc;
2. Impacts of the 90-day session on the legislative office and constituent relations;
3. Impacts of the 90-day session on public participation and the committee process; and
4. Impacts of the 90-day session on miscellaneous aspects of the legislative process, as well as suggested changes to session structure, and length.

Results

The same survey was given to all Representatives and interim staff. The survey results are presented filtered into three groups: Representatives; House staff; and a combination of both. These surveys are attached as are all additional comments to survey questions.

The surveys presented with this report are largely self-explanatory so this report will not go into great detail discussing the survey results with a few exceptions. In the following narrative the number in parenthesis refers to the question number in the Representative survey. Although the staff survey has some different percentages there was not a difference on the main issues discussed below.

Thirty-one Representatives responded to this survey, as well as 47 non-Juneau House staff, and 23 Juneau-based House staff. Of the 31 Representatives, a large majority expressed displeasure with the 90-day session. Twenty Representatives prefer the session length at 120-days, 4 prefer the session to be set at 90-days, and 4 prefer it to be structured as 45-days, a 30-day break, and then another 45-days.

General trends can be seen by looking at the majority of responses to a number of issues. Sixty percent of responding Representatives answer that the 90-day session had a negative or somewhat negative effect on their health and sleep habits (question 9). Sixty-seven percent say the 90-day session had a negative or somewhat negative impact on their hiring and retention of staff (q.11) while only 3 percent say it had a positive or somewhat positive impact. Communication and interaction with constituents is generally seen as negatively impacted, with 83 percent saying they communicated less well (q.14), 79 percent saying they traveled less to the district (q.15), and 85 percent stating that they consider a 90-day session to be detrimental to their legislative effectiveness. Sixty percent heard a majority of negative comments about the 90-day length from their constituents compared to 7 percent hearing positive comments (q.17). The effect of the 90-day session is generally seen as disadvantageous to constituents, with 93 percent of responding Representatives feeling that they have less time to schedule meetings (q.18), and 97 percent believe there is less public testimony and more time constraints on public testimony (q. 22). Ninety percent also feel there is less than adequate evaluation of their personal legislation (q. 21); with 83 percent believing the 90-day session gives special interest groups more power to kill legislation (q.23), and 76 percent say committee chairs have more power to kill legislation (q.24). Seventy-nine percent say bills were not heard because they might take up too much committee time (q.26) while 87 percent feel there is more pressure to move bills with a single hearing because of the shortened session (q.25).

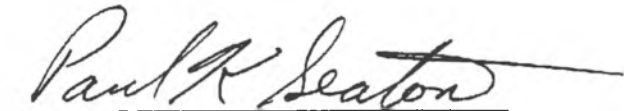
Representatives generally disagree with the validity of 90-day initiative proponent claims. Ninety-three percent do not think the shorter session cuts down legislative operating costs (q.13). Sixty-six percent do not believe the reduced number of session days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office (q.32), and 83 percent do not see value in comparing the length of sessions to other states (q.31). Eighty-six percent of the responding Representatives feel the 90-day session cedes some of the power of the legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy (q.33).

There is no majority opinion about the public desire for legislators to work longer sessions because of the change in legislators' compensation calculation from long-term per diem to salary (q.34), but 73 percent say the fact that the 90-day session was enacted by an initiative would have no effect on their willingness to change the session length (q.36). Sixty-seven percent of responding Representatives when combining all factors prefer the legislative session to be a 120-day structure.

Recommendations

Consistent with the above findings, the House subcommittee recommends that the Legislative Council introduce legislation to return legislative session duration to the constitutional specification of "...no later than one hundred and twenty consecutive calendar days from the date it convenes...."

If Legislative Council chooses to not follow the above recommendation, it should note that the survey polled respondents on three other measures the Legislature might take to improve a 90-day session. These results show that 65 percent of the responding Representatives support decreasing the length of time allowed to the Governor to submit budget amendments from 45 to 30 days. Twenty-two percent support a limit on the number of bills sponsored or co-sponsored, and 13 percent endorse a limit on the number of legislative citations an individual legislator can introduce (q.39). Five separate suggestions for uniform rule changes by individual Representatives are listed in the comment section (q.37).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul K. Seaton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Representative Paul Seaton, House Subcommittee Chair

Ballot Measure 1 - 05LEGS

90-DAY SESSION LIMIT FOR LEGISLATURE

BALLOT LANGUAGE

This initiative would reduce the maximum length of a regular legislative session from 121 days to 90 days.

SHOULD THIS INITIATIVE BECOME LAW?

Yes

No

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

This measure limits the length of a regular session of the legislature. The session may last only ninety days. The limit will not apply to the next regular session. It will apply to other sessions in the future.

STATEMENT OF COSTS AND REVENUES FOR BALLOT MEASURE 1 - INITIATIVE 05LEGS - Prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency

As required by AS 15.58.020 (6) (c) the Legislative Affairs Agency has prepared the following statement of costs and cost savings to the Legislative Affairs Agency of implementing the law proposed in Ballot Initiative 05LEGS.

The initiative would limit regular sessions of the Legislature to 90 days, including the day the legislature first convenes in that regular session. The 90 day limit would take effect beginning with the second regular session of the 25th Alaska Legislature in January 2008.

The Legislative Affairs Agency would realize a cost savings of \$700,000 per year due to shortening the existing 121 day session to 90 days. However, shortening the regular session to 90 days may or may not result in more frequent special sessions so that legislators can work on single subject legislation, or work on legislation that did not make it through the process during the regular session. If more special sessions were held, the \$700,000 cost savings realized by shortening the session, would be offset by the costs of holding more frequent special sessions.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LAW

An Act relating to a 90-day regular session of the legislature; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*Section 1. AS 24.05.150 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

The text of this bill is presented as submitted by petition sponsors.

(b) The legislature shall adjourn from a regular session within 90 consecutive calendar days, including the day the legislature first convenes in that regular session.

*Sec. 2 This act takes effect on the first day of the second regular session of the 25th Alaska Legislature.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

Why limit the Alaska legislative session to a 90 day duration?

This is the most asked question we get when discussing our voter initiative.

The advantages are many and too numerous to list in the limited space made available in this election pamphlet, but here are some of the major advantages to a 90 day session.

First, we save 30 days of per diem and expenses of operation of the legislature - paper, copy costs, transportation, etc.

Secondly, twenty-seven other states in the U.S. have a shorter session than Alaska (remember this figure when people tell you we would not have adequate time to do our work).

Third, since 1990, legislation has been introduced twenty-four times and none of the bills have gotten to the floor of either body for action.

All voters should understand that a 90 day session limit would in no way restrict the legislature from calling itself into special session to meet specific needs of the state. The Governor also has the ability to call the legislature into special session, as he has done the last two years.

Finally, we would like to quote a very compelling piece from the Juneau Empire, which stated the following:

"Reducing the time away from family and other work also might encourage people to run for office. Competition and choice only helps the democratic process and ultimately might boost the caliber of candidates"

Submitted by one of the Petition Sponsors

Senator Tom Wagoner
Senate District Q

The statement printed on this page is the opinion of the author(s) and is presented as submitted to the Division of Elections.

Ballot Measure 1 - 05LEGS

90-DAY SESSION LIMIT FOR LEGISLATURE

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

If you like power-wielding committee chairs, special interests, and high-paid lobbyists, you're going to love Ballot Measure 1. This proposed change to Alaska's statutes would play right into their hands.

On the other hand if you like your Legislature truly representative and dedicated to listening to the people of Alaska on issues that affect their lives, rights, resources, and revenues then Ballot Measure 1 deserves a "NO" vote on your ballot November 7.

Here's why:

Most Alaskans want meaningful, beneficial bills to be respectfully considered during the course of the regular sessions of each Legislature. They want appropriate committees in each house to have time to schedule hearings so that members can study legislation, hear Alaskan citizen testimony and experts, then intelligently vote their recommendations and send the bills on to the next committee of referral, if any. Some important, many-faceted bills may require consideration and recommendations from as many as three committees. A natural resources measure, for instance, may require referrals to Resources, Judiciary, and Finance.

Here's where the special interests and power brokers come in. If a bill is filed that is not to their liking there are two ways they can kill it.

First is the honorable way, by participating in honest, forthright testimony in committees, and by presenting their views to members of each house before a vote on each house floor. Of course, for an outcome to their liking they will need to round up enough negative votes (20 "nays" in the House, 10 in the Senate) to cause the bill to fail passage.

The other, easier way for the well-heeled, well-connected lobbyist or interest group is to find a friendly, sympathetic committee chair who will either outright refuse to bring up a bill for committee consideration and advancement or kill it with kindness by scheduling multiple strung-out hearings or by holding it for "more study."

What does this have to do with session limits? Obviously, the shorter the allowable session, the easier it is to stall a good bill's progress until the legislative session clock runs out. Hence the enthusiasm for Ballot Measure 1 among special interests and legislator power brokers.

Remember this: the more you limit the legislature's time to do its legitimate business, the more you limit the opportunity of Alaskans to hear the facts and share their expertise.

And by the way, session-limiting statutes don't even work. Ever since the current 120-day session went into effect in 1985 every single Legislature has had to be called back into special session one, two, or even three more times!

This is expensive and wasteful. The people of Alaska deserve better.

Please vote "NO" on Ballot Measure 1!

Mike Miller, Juneau
Former Majority Leader, Alaska House of Representatives

Niilo E. Koponen, Fairbanks
Former Chair, Committee on Health, Education, & Social Services

Sam Cotten, Anchorage
Speaker of the House 1989-1990

The statement printed on this page is the opinion of the author(s) and is presented as submitted to the Division of Elections.



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature
Division of Legal and Research Services
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-3991 phone
(907) 465-3908 fax
research@legis.state.ak.us

Memorandum

TO: Representative Paul Seaton
FROM: Chuck Burnham, Legislative Analyst *CB*
DATE: February 1, 2011
RE: Interim Committees of the Alaska Legislature, May 2000 - January 2011 Report
LRS Report 11.144

You asked about interim committees of the Alaska Legislature. Specifically, you wanted an account of the number of committees, task forces, commissions, and similar official bodies of the legislature that met on dates outside of regular or special sessions since 2000.¹

According to the Alaska Legislature's Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS), a total of 606 interim committees and official legislative entities met between May 7, 2000, and January 17, 2011.² Table 1 tallies these committees by year and location. Overall, as you can see, the majority of interim committees—about 72 percent—met in Anchorage. The number of interim committees ranged from a low of 21 in 2000 to a high of 100 in 2009. The average number of committees per interim over the period we reviewed is 55.

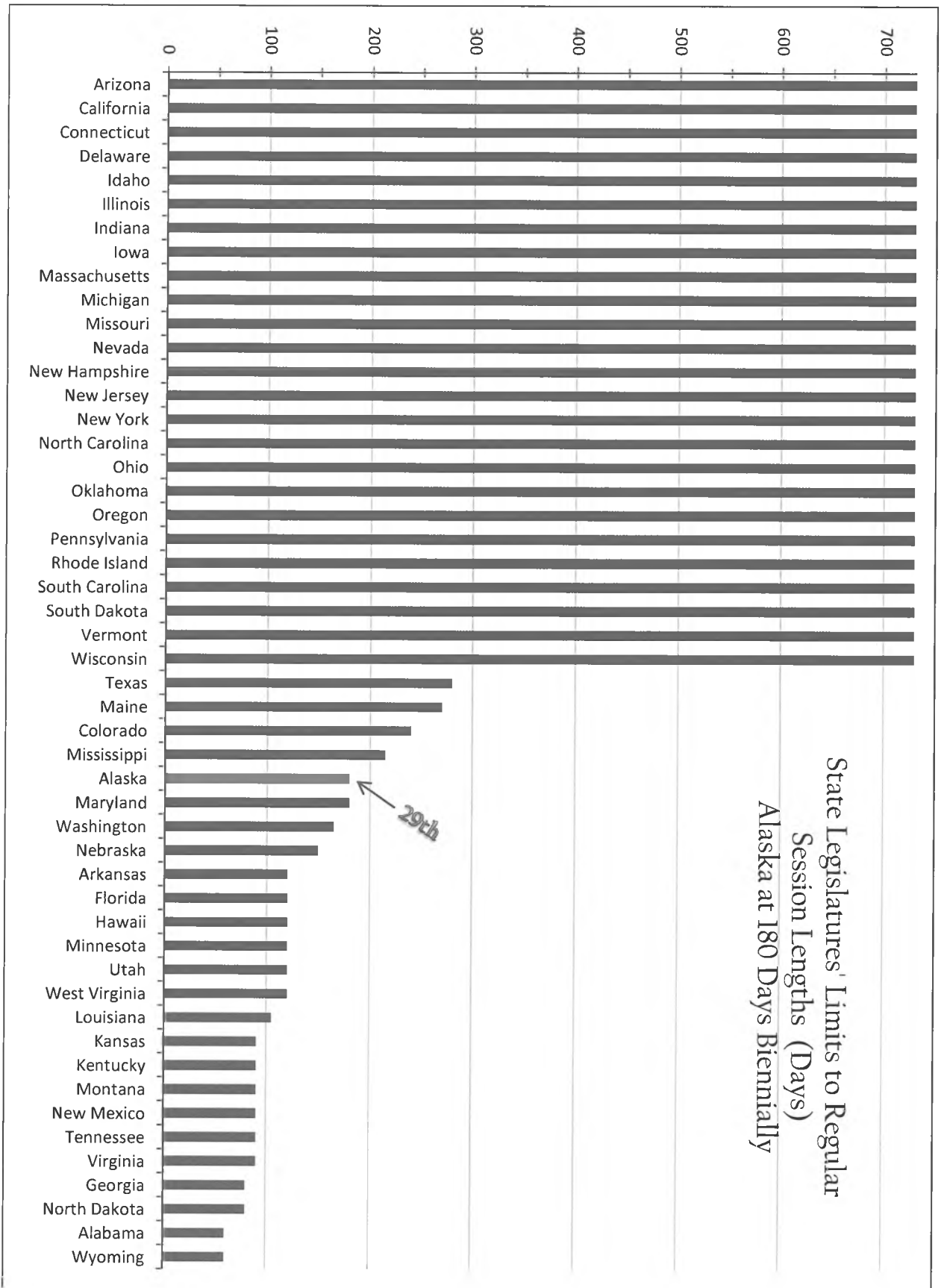
Interim Committees of the Alaska Legislature 2000-2010						
Year	Regular Session Days	Special Session Days	Interim Committees by Location			Total Interim Committees
			Anchorage	Juneau	Other	
2000	115	3	13	6	2	21
2001	121	3	43	2	16	61
2002	123	9	34	3	9	46
2003	121	0	32	2	22	56
2004	122	3	42	3	1	46
2005	121	15	34	6	31	71
2006	121	67	26	0	8	34
2007	121	31	43	3	17	63
2008	90	60	38	2	6	46
2009	90	1	77	0	23	100
2010	90	0	54	0	8	62
Total	1,235	192	436	27	143	606

Notes and Source: This table tallies the number of caucuses (other than political caucuses), councils, task forces, and standing and special committees that met on dates outside of regular or special sessions between May 7, 2000, and January 17, 2011, as listed in the Alaska Legislature's Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS). Previous iterations of our reports on this topic counted meetings rather than the committees and other official organizations involved. Please use caution when comparing these reports. Session lengths are primarily from Legislative Legal Services, Summary of Alaska Legislation 2009.

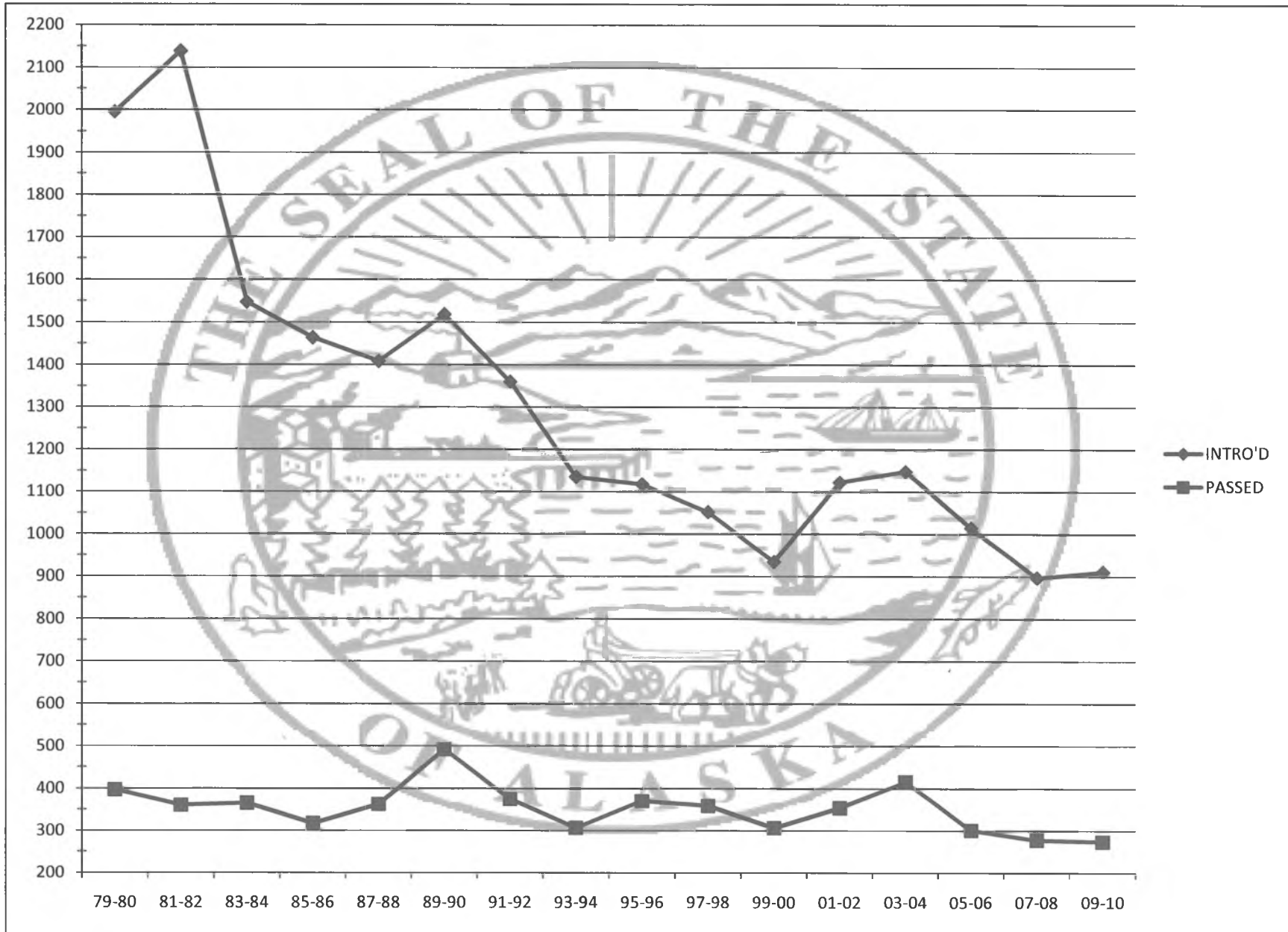
We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

¹ As you know, this report differs from previous iterations on this topic in that you asked for a count of interim committees as opposed to a tally of interim meetings. For this report, we tallied two committees for each instance in which the stand-alone committee of one chamber met with its companion from the other body. For instance, if each chamber's Finance Committee met together, we tallied two committees; however, joint committees—Legislative Budget and Audit, Legislative Council, etc.—tallied only one for each meeting because these organizations are strictly joint committees. That is, they do not exist as stand-alone committees in either chamber. As a result of these factors, we urge caution when comparing our reports on this topic.

² Among the wide variety of information contained in BASIS are the hearing calendars for legislative entities for every year since 1993. The system is available online at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/>. May 7, 2000, marked the end of the third special session of the 21st Alaska Legislature, which immediately followed the second regular session.

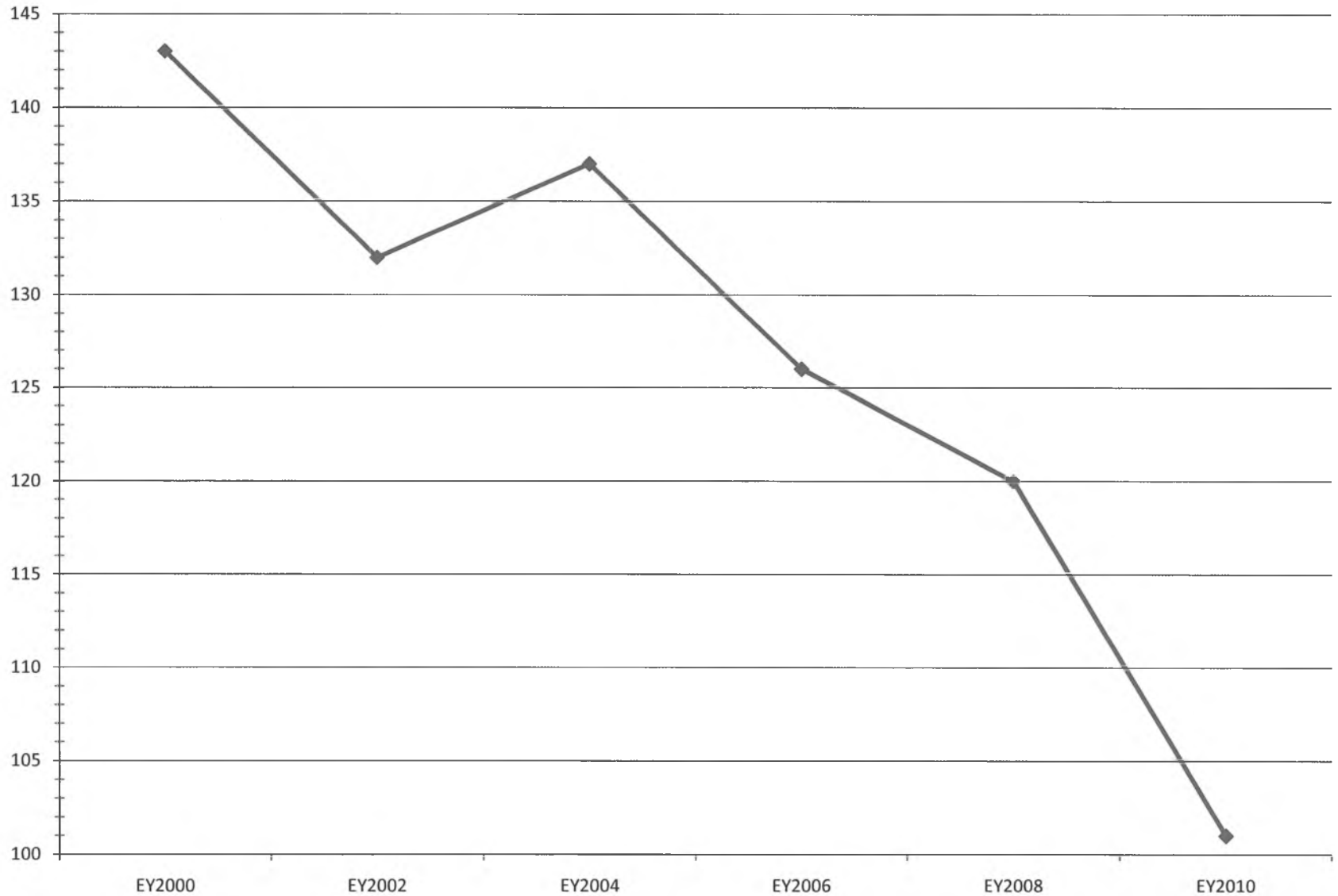


Alaska State Legislature - Legislation Introduced and Passed, 1979-2010



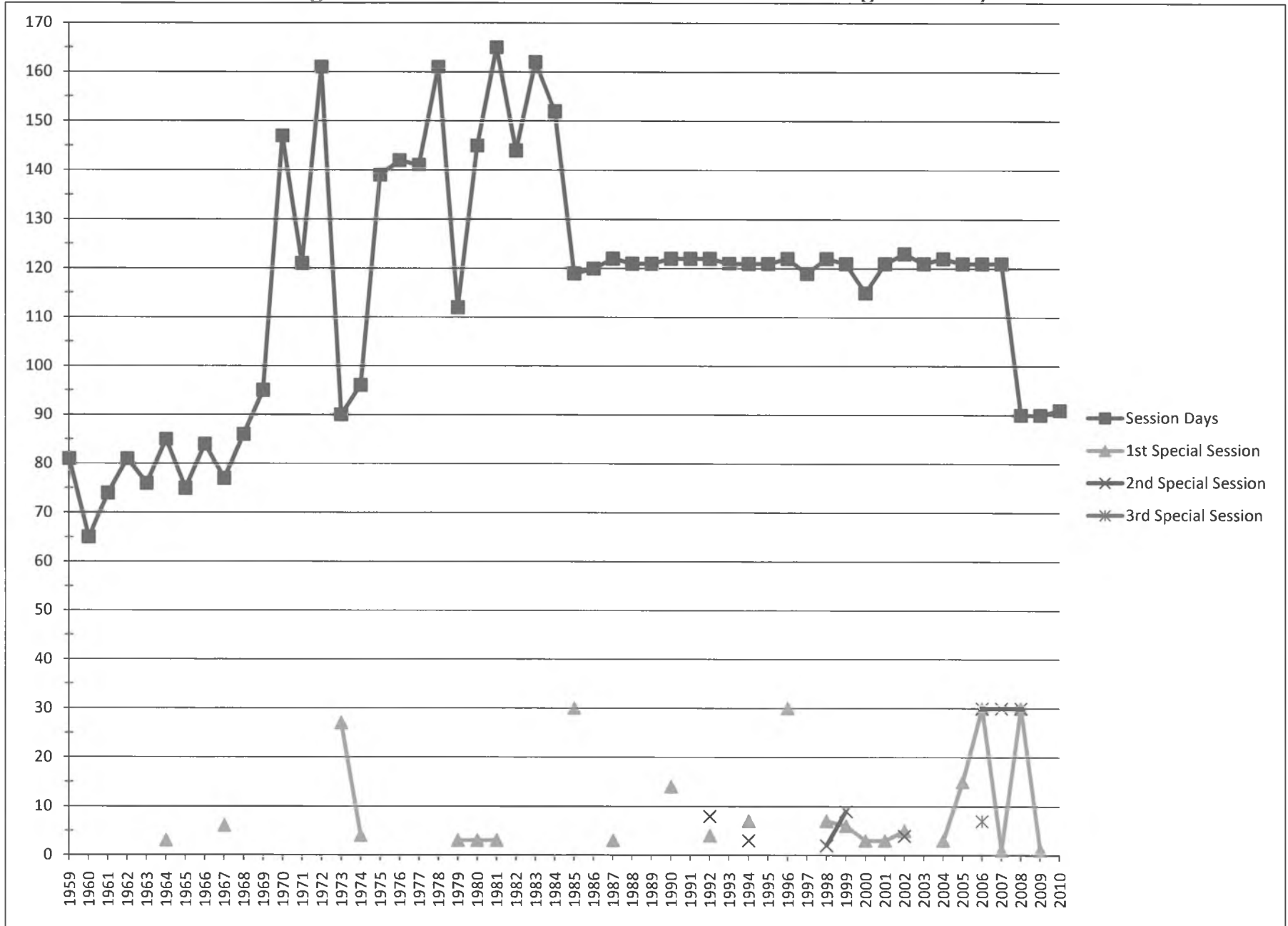
Source: "Final Status of Bills and Resolutions" Senate Secretary's Office and Chief Clerk's Office, 1979-2010

Total Candidates Filed For Alaska State House & Senate 2000-2010



Source: AK Division of Elections, Official List of Primary Candidates, 2000-2010

Legislative Sessions Since Statehood - Session Lengths in Days



Source: Legal Services, *Summary of Alaska Legislation 2009* (Juneau: Legislative Affairs Agency, 2009)

Alaska Constitution

Section 2.8 - 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.

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
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 * 11:59pm
* 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.				

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS SINCE STATEHOOD

Legislature/Session & Number of Days	Day/Date Convened	Day/Date Adjourned	Adjournment Time	
			SENATE	HOUSE
15TH LEGISLATURE: 1987 - 1988 1st Session - 122 days (extended)** 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
***Adjourned at midnight under the provisions of art. II, sec. 8 of the Alaska Constitution				
23rd LEGISLATURE: 2003 - 2004 1st Session - 121 days 2nd Session - 122 days 1st Special Session - 3 days	Tu 1/21/03 MO 1/12/04 Tu 6/22/04	WE 5/21/03 WE 5/12/04 TH 6/24/04	1:57pm 11:44pm (5/11) 4:35pm	11:59:59pm**** 12:00am 5:26pm
****Adjourned at midnight under the provisions of art. II, sec. 8 of the Alaska Constitution				
24TH LEGISLATURE: 2005 - 2006 1st Session - 121 days 1st Special Session - 15 days 2nd Session - 121 days 2nd Special Session - 30 days 3rd Special Session - 30 days 4th Special Session - 7 days* *House started on 2nd day	MO 1/10/05 WE 5/11/05 MO 1/9/06 WE 5/10/06 WE 7/12/06 TU 11/14/06*	TU 5/10/05 WE 5/25/05 TU 5/9/06 TH 6/8/06 TH 8/10/06 MO 11/20/06	9:51pm 10:38am 11:54pm 11:32pm 9:58pm 2:09pm	10:15pm 10:19pm (5/24) 9:08pm 11:12pm 10:02pm 11:22am (11/17)

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS SINCE STATEHOOD				
Legislature/Session & Number of Days	Day/Date Convened	Day/Date Adjourned	Adjournment Time	
			SENATE	HOUSE
25TH LEGISLATURE: 2007 - 2008				
1st Session - 121 days	TU 1/16/07	WE 5/16/07	11:51pm	11:56pm
1st Special Session -1 day	TU 6/26/07	TU 6/26/07	4:55pm	5:04pm
2nd Special Session - 30 days	TH 10/18/07	FR 11/16/07	2:09pm	4:15pm
2nd Session - 90 days	TU 1/15/08	SU 4/13/08	12:55pm	12:54pm
3rd Special Session - 30 days	TU 6/03/08	WE 7/02/08	11:59:59pm*	11:59:59pm*
4th Special Session - 30 days	WE 7/9/08	TH 8/7/08	8:41pm	9:40pm
*Adjourned at midnight under the provisions of art. II, sec. 9 of the Alaska Constitution				
26TH LEGISLATURE: 2009 - 2010				
1st Session - 90 days	TU 1/20/09	SU 4/19/09	7:29pm	7:54pm
1st Special Session -1 day	MO 8/10/09	MO 8/10/09	3:49pm	3:50pm

SOURCE: Legal Services, *Summary of Alaska Legislation 2009* (Juneau: Legislative Affairs Agency, 2009).

NOTE: All Special Sessions were called by the Governor, except the 1st Special Session of the 14th Legislature, the 1st Special Session of the 17th Legislature, the Second Special Session of the 22nd Legislature, the First Special Session of the 25th Legislature, and the First Special Session of the 26th Legislature which were called by the Legislature.

STATE OF ALASKA - 2006 GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 7, 2006
OFFICIAL RESULTS

Date:12/05/06
 Time:19:20:40
 Page:6 of 8

Registered Voters 466258 - Cards Cast 238307 51.11%

Num. Report Precinct 439 - Num. Reporting 439 100.00%

HOUSE DISTRICT 40			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	21		
Precincts Reporting	21	100.0 %	
Times Counted	3826/8474	45.1 %	
Total Votes	3488		
JOULE, REGGIE	DEM	3412	97.82%
Write-in Votes	76	2.18%	

SUPERIOR CT JD2, ERLICH			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	50		
Precincts Reporting	50	100.0 %	
Times Counted	8314/16820	49.4 %	
Total Votes	7772		
YES	5340	68.71%	
NO	2432	31.29%	



MEASURE NO. 1 - 05LEGS			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	439		
Precincts Reporting	439	100.0 %	
Times Counted	238307/466258	51.1 %	
Total Votes	231507		
YES	117675	50.83%	
NO	113832	49.17%	

SUPERIOR CT JD2, ESCH			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	50		
Precincts Reporting	50	100.0 %	
Times Counted	8314/16820	49.4 %	
Total Votes	7736		
YES	5115	66.12%	
NO	2621	33.88%	

MEASURE NO. 2 - 05GAS2			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	439		
Precincts Reporting	439	100.0 %	
Times Counted	238307/466258	51.1 %	
Total Votes	233798		
YES	80909	34.61%	
NO	152889	65.39%	

SUPERIOR CT JD3, BOLGER			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	227		
Precincts Reporting	227	100.0 %	
Times Counted	158590/307952	51.5 %	
Total Votes	126641		
YES	80177	63.31%	
NO	46464	36.69%	

SUPERIOR CT JD1, WEEKS			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	49		
Precincts Reporting	49	100.0 %	
Times Counted	29151/55895	52.2 %	
Total Votes	25919		
YES	20097	77.54%	
NO	5822	22.46%	

SUPERIOR CT JD3, BROWN			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	227		
Precincts Reporting	227	100.0 %	
Times Counted	158590/307952	51.5 %	
Total Votes	125740		
YES	72806	57.90%	
NO	52934	42.10%	

SUPERIOR CT JD1, ZERVOS			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	49		
Precincts Reporting	49	100.0 %	
Times Counted	29151/55895	52.2 %	
Total Votes	24018		
YES	17558	73.10%	
NO	6460	26.90%	

SUPERIOR CT JD3, HUGUELET			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	227		
Precincts Reporting	227	100.0 %	
Times Counted	158590/307952	51.5 %	
Total Votes	123701		
YES	74670	60.36%	
NO	49031	39.64%	

DISTRICT CT JD1, MILLER			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	49		
Precincts Reporting	49	100.0 %	
Times Counted	29151/55895	52.2 %	
Total Votes	24787		
YES	19325	77.96%	
NO	5462	22.04%	

SUPERIOR CT JD3, MICHALSKI			
	Total		
Number of Precincts	227		
Precincts Reporting	227	100.0 %	
Times Counted	158590/307952	51.5 %	
Total Votes	125087		
YES	76782	61.38%	
NO	48305	38.62%	

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version SSHB 71
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) SSHB71-LEG-SES-01-25-11 Dept. Affected Legislature
 Title "An Act relating to the duration of regular sessions of the
Legislature and providing for an effective date." Appropriation Leg Council, Operating Budget
 Allocation Salaries and Allowances, Session,
 Sponsor Representative Seaton, Gruenberg and Edgmon Legislative Operating Budget
 Requester House State Affairs OMB Component Number 776-782-796

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	438.0	0.0	438.0	438.0	438.0	438.0	438.0	438.0
Travel	414.0	0.0	414.0	414.0	414.0	414.0	414.0	414.0
Contractual	6.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Supplies	6.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Equipment								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	864.0	0.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	864.0	0.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	864.0	0.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0	864.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version

Prepared by Shane Miller, Finance Manager
 Division Administrative Services Division
 Approved by Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 1/31/11 10:45 AM
 Date 1/31/2011

Analysis

HB71 increases the number of days of the regular session of a Legislature from 90 days to 120 days, beginning with the second session of the 27th Legislature which convenes in January 2012.

When the session was reduced from 120 to 90 days, the cost savings were redesignated into the special session contingency account in the event that reducing the number of session days resulted in more or longer special sessions. It is the intent of House Leadership that funding for the additional 30 days be included in this fiscal note and the special session contingency account remain to provide adequate funding for future special sessions.

The daily cost for the additional 30 days is approximately \$28.8 resulting in an increase to the budget of \$864.0 per fiscal year.

This 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 and session expenses during the session. If the session days are increased, the session payroll would increase due to the higher cost of personal services during a session and the interim payroll would decrease. The majority of the personal services costs would be a transfer of costs between allocations.

The costs below are for items needed for a longer session.

	Per Day
Personal Services	14.6
Travel - Legislator Session Per Diem	13.8
Contractual - Phones, copier maintenance, etc.	.2
Commodities - Lounge, paper supplies, etc.	.2
Total	28.8

30 days times 28.8 - 864.0

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REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

District 35

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bob Lynn
Chair, House State Affairs

FROM: Representative Paul Seaton *Paul Seaton*
Representative Bryce Edgmon *Bryce Edgmon*
Representative Max Gruenberg *Max Gruenberg*

DATE: February 2, 2011

RE: Request for hearing, SSHB 71

We respectfully request a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee on SSHB 71, repealing the 90-day Session.

Attached please find: SSHB71v.B; Sponsor Statement; 90-day Session Evaluation Report; 90-day Session Survey Representatives; Ballot Measure 1 pro con Statements in Voter Pamphlet; Legislative Research Report 11.144 - Number of Interim Committees; Session Days by State; Chart-Legislation Introduced and Passed 1979-2010; Chart-Number of Candidates 2000-2010; Chart-History Length of Sessions; History Length of Sessions; Alaska Constitution - Section 2.8 - Regular Sessions; Election Results 2006.

Invited testimony/available for questions: Pam Varni, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs; Shane Miller, Finance Manager, Accounting, Legislative Affairs.

Please make the teleconference available to Legislative Information offices state wide.
At this time we do not expect any off-net participation.

Staff contact: Katie Koester: 465-2028