

SB

18

<TARGET><BILL>SB 18</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
18</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN27</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/11/11

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 18

SB 18-DURATION OF REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

"An Act relating to the duration of regular sessions of the legislature; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

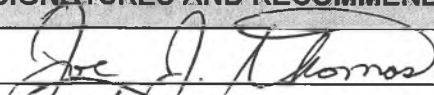


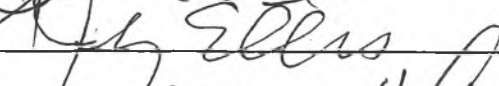
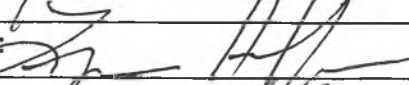

- be replaced with CS SB 18 (FIN) [] Same Title New Title
- adopt previous CS _____ (_____) [] Same Title [] New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
LEG	✓			
LEG	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	THOMAS	✓			
	EGAN	✓			
	OLSON				✓
	ELLIS			✓	
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	STANMAN	✓			

AMENDMENT |

Adopted 3/21/11

OFFERED IN THE SENATE
TO: CSSB 18(STA)

BY SENATOR HOFFMAN

- 1 Page 2, line 11:
- 2 Delete "2012"
- 3 Insert "2013"

" 2014 "

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version CSSB 18 (STA)
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) CSSB18-LEG-COU-3-7-2011 Dept. Affected Legislature
 Title "An Act relating to the duration of regular sessions of the Appropriation Legislative Council
Legislature and providing for an effective date." Allocation Salaries and Allowances
 Sponsor Senator Stevens
 Requester Senate State Affairs Committee OMB Component Number 776

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0

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		413.0		413.0		413.0	
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0	413.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version

Initial version of fiscal note did not show fiscal impact. This version shows fiscal impact of bill but does not request funding.

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

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 3/7/11 11:22 AM
 Date 3/7/2011

Analysis

CSSB 18 increases the number of days of the 2nd 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 the Senate Finance Committee that the cost of adding 30 additional days to the legislative session be included in this fiscal note and the special session contingency account will pay for these additional session days. No increment appropriation is requested by this fiscal note.

The increased cost of session per diem for the additional 30 days is approximately \$413.0.

Session per diem cost would increase per the formulas below:

57 Non-Juneau Legislators * \$232/day * 30 days = \$397.0

3 Juneau Legislators * \$174/day * 30 days = \$16.0

Total: \$413.0

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version CSSB 18(STA)
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) CSSB18-LEG-COU-3-07-2011 Dept. Affected Legislature
 Title "An Act relating to the duration of regular sessions of the Appropriation Legislative Council
Legislature and providing for an effective date." Allocation Session Expenses
 Sponsor Senator Stevens
 Requester Senate State Affairs Committee OMB Component Number 782

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	0.0	438.0	0.0	438.0	0.0	438.0	0.0	
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Contractual	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	
Supplies	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	
Equipment								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	450.0	0.0	450.0	0.0	450.0	0.0	

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

CHANGE IN REVENUES							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF		450.0		450.0		450.0	
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	450.0	0.0	450.0	0.0	450.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version

Initial version of fiscal note did not show fiscal impact. This version shows fiscal impact of bill but does not request funding.

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

Phone 465-6626
 Date/Time 3/7/11 12:35 PM
 Date 3/7/2011

Analysis

CCSB 18 increases the number of days of the 2nd 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 the Senate Finance Committee that the cost of adding 30 additional days to the legislative session be included in this fiscal note and the special session contingency account will pay for these additional session days. No increment appropriation is requested by this fiscal note.

The daily cost for the additional 30 days is approximately \$15.0 resulting in an increase to the budget of \$450.0 per fiscal year.

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

	Per Day
Personal Services	14.6
Contractual - Phones, copier maintenance, etc.	.2
Commodities - Lounge, paper supplies, etc.	.2
Total	15.0

(30 days * 15.0 - \$450.0)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 18(FIN)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR STEVENS

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the convening and duration of regular sessions of the legislature;**
2 **and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 24.05.090 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 24.05.090. Duration of legislature; sessions.** [THE LEGISLATURE
6 SHALL CONVENE AT THE CAPITAL EACH YEAR ON THE THIRD TUESDAY
7 IN JANUARY AT 1:00 p.m.] Each legislature has a duration of two years and consists
8 of a "First Regular Session" that meets in the odd-numbered years, and a "Second
9 Regular Session" that meets in the even-numbered years, and any special session that
10 the governor or legislature calls. **The legislature shall convene a First Regular**
11 **Session at the capital on the third Tuesday in January at 1:00 p.m. and shall**
12 **convene a Second Regular Session at the capital on the second Tuesday in**
13 **January at 1:00 p.m.**

14 *** Sec. 2.** AS 24.05.150(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) The legislature shall adjourn from a **first** regular session within 90
2 consecutive calendar days, including the day the legislature first convenes in that
3 [REGULAR] session. **The legislature shall adjourn from a second regular session**
4 **within 120 consecutive calendar days, including the day the legislature first**
5 **convenes in that session.**

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 24.05.150 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (c) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, the legislature may extend a first or
8 second regular session once for up to 10 consecutive calendar days. An extension of
9 the regular session requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the
10 membership of each house.

11 * **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect January 1, 2014.

12 * **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Gary Stevens *President of the Senate*

SPONSOR STATEMENT **Senate Bill 18**

Senate Bill 18 strikes a compromise by maintaining a 90-day first session, and a 120-day second session during each Alaska Legislature.

In the Fall of 2006, Alaskan voters narrowly passed ballot measure #1 to limit legislative sessions to 90 days. The Legislature has since worked under a 90-day session for 4 sessions. We've tried it. However, the best interests of Alaskans are not being served, nor are the arguments supporting passage of the ballot measure being proven true.

The most compelling argument in favor of shortening the session was the notion it would save money by reducing the cost of government. Obviously the costs of having regular legislative sessions have been reduced. However, the overall annual costs of the legislature have actually increased. Legislative salaries are still paid out, paper and copy costs accrue for more interim committee meetings, and legislator travel expenses accrue throughout the year, not just during session. There has not been a significant cost savings, if any, by reducing legislative sessions to 90 days.

It's very common to look at what other states are doing and to embrace or dismiss their policies depending on what side of an issue a person stands. Comparatively, Alaska is in the middle of the road on this issue and SB 18 would move us even closer to the middle.

There's also the idea that less time in Juneau means less time away from the home district, away from family, and normal interim activities (private sector work, etc), and thus greater "competition" among candidates who will have more incentive to run for office. Unfortunately there has been a steady decline in the total number of candidates running for state office since 2000, with the 2008 & 2010 election seasons showing the lowest number of candidates in a primary since 1998.

The bottom line is, the roughly \$50 million spent on administering the Legislative ("Peoples") Branch of government, the watchdog of the Executive Branch, is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$10 billion being spent by the executive agencies. And while the legislature respects and acknowledges the initiative process in Alaska, particularly the 90-day session vote in 2006, it is within the confines of Alaska's Constitution to resume a 120-day legislative session, at least partially as SB 18 proposes, to balance the power structure of Alaska's state government, and better serve the public.

Thank you for your support of this important issue.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Senator Gary Stevens *President of the Senate*

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS Senate Bill 18 CS (STA) Version "I"

SECTION 1: AS 24.05.090

Establishes that during even-numbered years and a 120-day session, the legislature will convene on the second Tuesday in January. During odd-numbered years and a 90-day session, the legislature will convene on the third Tuesday of January.

SECTION 2: AS 24.05.150(b)

Establishes that the legislature shall adjourn its first regular session within 90 calendar days and its second regular session within 120 calendar days from the time it convenes.

SECTION 3: AS 24.05.150 (c)

Adds a new subsection (c) that reiterates Article 2, Section 8 of the Alaska State Constitution, providing for a 10-day extension of a regular session if made by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of each house.

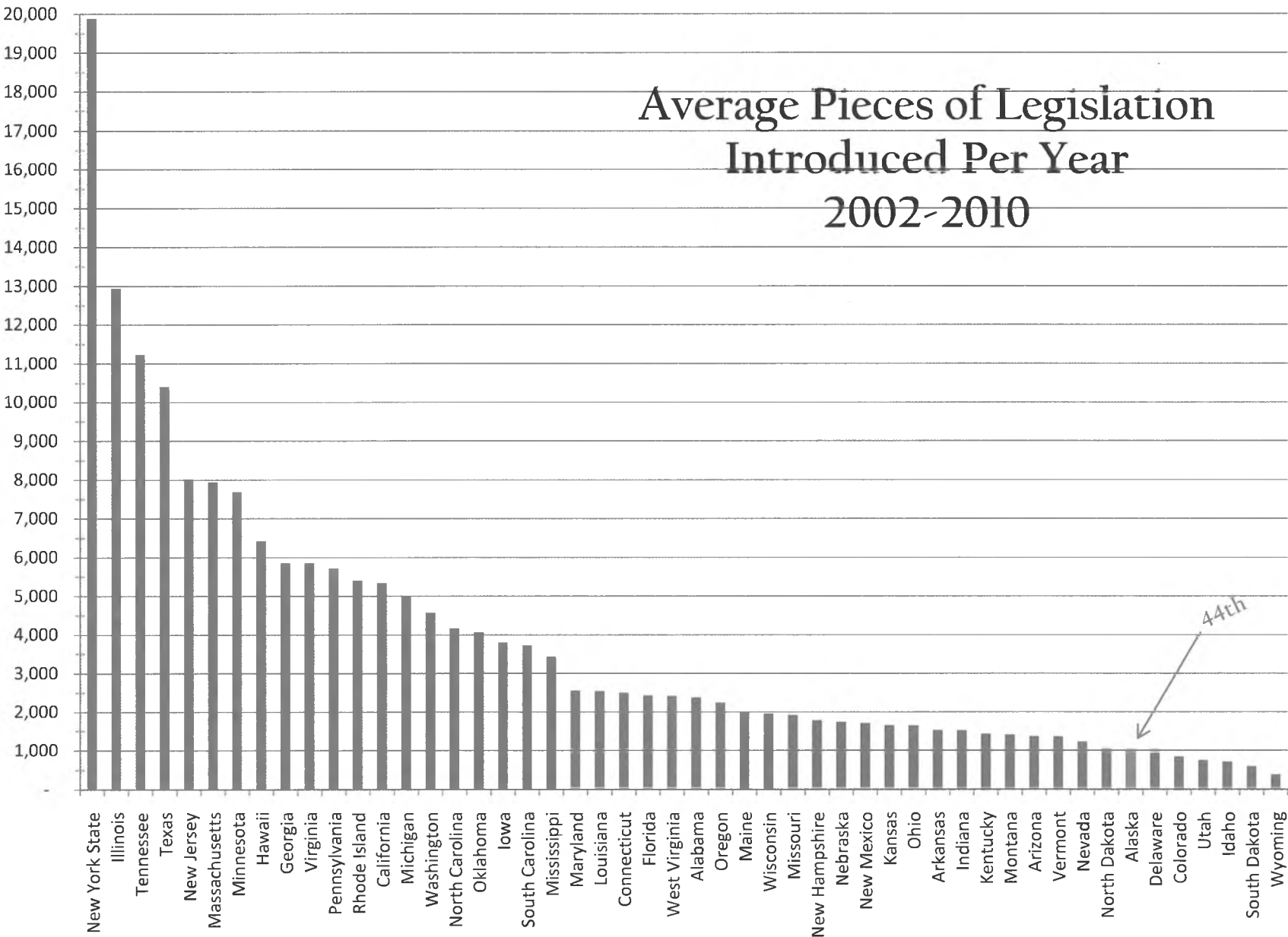
SECTION 4:

Establishes the effective date of Sections 1 and 2 of the bill to be January 1, 2012.

SECTION 5:

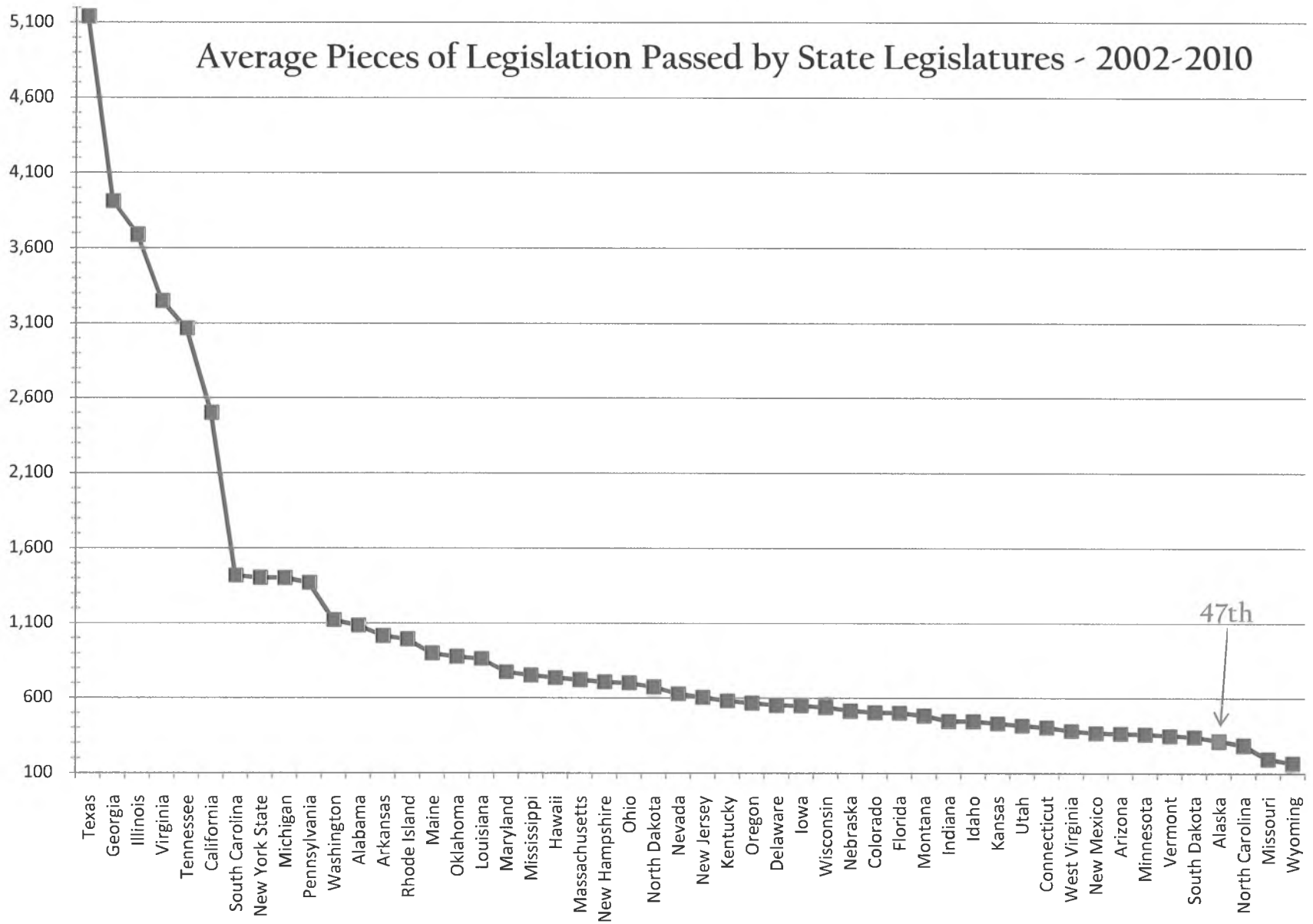
Establishes an immediate effective date of Section 3 of the bill.

Average Pieces of Legislation Introduced Per Year 2002-2010

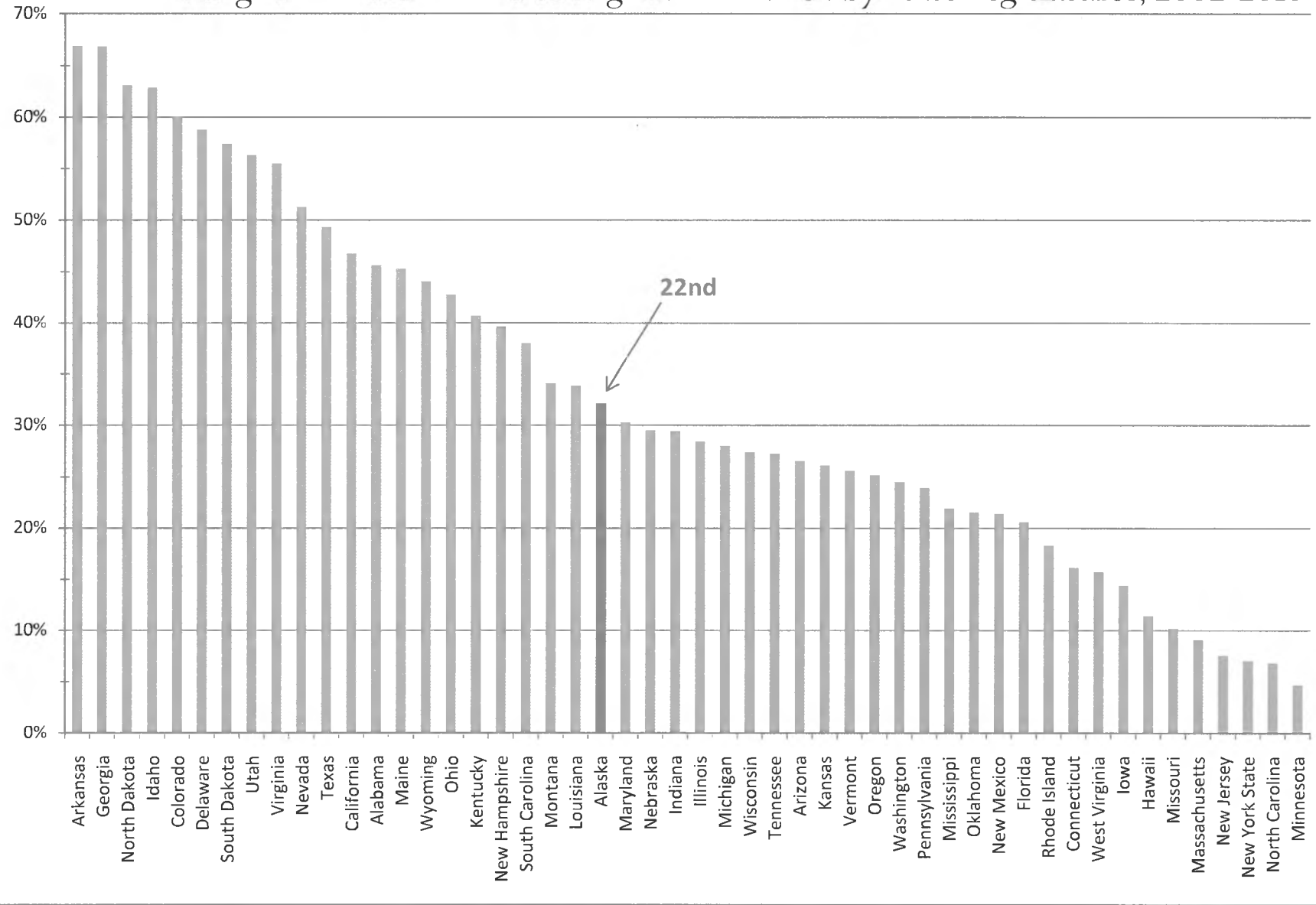


Source: www.StateNet.com, Session Statistics, 2002-2010

Average Pieces of Legislation Passed by State Legislatures - 2002-2010



Ratio of Legislation Introduced to Legislation Passed by State Legislatures, 2002-2010





NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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phone: 303/364-7700 fax: 303/364-7800

Methods by Which Legislative Session Lengths Are Limited

Constitution (28 states)	Statute (5 states)	Chamber Rule (3 states)	Indirect Method (3 states)	No Limit (11 states)
Arkansas Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico North Dakota Oklahoma Oregon South Dakota Texas Utah Virginia Washington West Virginia Wyoming	Alabama Alaska Indiana Maine South Carolina	Arizona California Massachusetts	Iowa New Hampshire Tennessee	Idaho Illinois Michigan New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Wisconsin

As of December 2010

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MINER print

Poor turnout: Scheduling conflicts left Alaskans unheard in Juneau

03.03.11 - 07:32 pm

Editorial

Once every legislative session, for about a week, the Alaska Legislature almost guarantees it won't been seen in a good light by Alaskans. That's because, during that week, they're not seen much at all.

Almost half the Legislature went to Washington, D.C., this week for the annual Energy Council meeting. The council is a loosely organized association of legislators from energy-producing states and Canadian provinces. They all get together to hear presentations about trends in the energy business. Some Alaska legislators also use the trip to Washington, D.C., to visit other officials and share viewpoints on various issue.

Even if the Energy Council meeting seems a bit over-attended, legislators can legitimately defend its educational value. And, while travel and expenses for last year's trip set the state back almost \$50,000, it's not a terribly expensive educational seminar.

However, legislators do themselves no favors when they allow the trip to interfere with the business back home. That's what happened Wednesday. The House Finance Committee scheduled a full afternoon of public testimony from specific communities around the state, including Fairbanks. But only a handful of legislators were there to listen. The rest either were in D.C. or didn't attend for some other reason.

That's unfortunate. When a committee schedules a hearing to invite testimony from specific areas, it should do so at a time when more than a skeleton crew of legislators can attend. Skipping out makes for bad public relations, if nothing else.

Of course, this is a two-way street. Alaskans should take opportunities to attend such events when invited. That doesn't always happen; people sometimes seem happier to grouse privately than testify up front.

Part of the problem is that it's difficult to schedule everything into the Legislature's 90-day session. If nothing else, attendance at the Finance hearing this week illustrated again why the 90-day session limit should be returned to the 120 days called for by the Constitution.



Empire editorial: Stevens' longer Legislature measure deserves consideration

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Story last updated at 2/15/2011 - 10:57 pm

Empire editorial: Stevens' longer Legislature measure deserves consideration
JUNEAU EMPIRE

Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak, has pitched a proposal to extend the legislative session to 120 days every other year. We are encouraged by the desire captured in Senate Bill 18 to find a middle ground between those who say the Legislature is constrained in its efforts by a 90-day session and others who believe 90 days is adequate to perform the people's business, and we are hopeful both cabinets and the governor will give Stevens' plan serious consideration.

In 2006, a slim majority of voters — less than 51 percent of the 51 percent of registered voters who cast ballots — decided to impose a 90-day maximum on the length of each legislative session. However, that vote put state law at odds with Alaska's Constitution, which allows the legislature to meet for 120 days each session. This creates tension between the constitution and state statute.

One main argument against the shorter gathering is hurried committee meetings do not allow for complete consideration of legislation. Proposals in front of the House and Senate are often complex, and the less time legislators can spend hashing out the finer points means more time the details are left to unelected staff. Lobbyists, whose jobs are to master all of the intricacies of their respective pet issues, remain 30 days smarter and better informed on legislation as well, allowing their influence to grow.

The counter from proponents of 90-day meetings is that lawmakers could be more efficient with their time. Complaints of committee meetings starting late are common, and such meetings are occasionally wasted on silly discussions and even sillier legislation. As the clock ticked away on the final day of last year's session, when the Legislature rushed to complete its work before 90 days elapsed (they missed by about 35 minutes), it took up measures giving the Malamute status as the state dog and naming a bridge in Petersburg.

Stevens' bill is one that splits the difference between the two camps, and would give each side half a loaf. Legislators, many screaming for more time to get their work done, would get 30 more days every other year. Backers of shorter sessions would still have accomplished their goal as well, getting both the voters and lawmakers — in a representative democracy, it's important to have both — to sign off on less than 240 days of debate for each Legislature, and this proposal is a better effort to strike a balance between the two camps than the effort gaining traction in the House which would return sessions to 120 days a year. That option is always available if Stevens' middle ground proves not to be enough.

Both sides in this debate have a point — a much more common occurrence, generally, than our present state of political discourse would lead someone to believe. We are pleased with Stevens' reasonable proposal to address the concerns of the parties. It's a sensible solution to a legal tension that needs resolution.



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Coeur Alaska, Inc.
Coogan Construction
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Exxon Mobil
First National Bank of Alaska
Hecla Greens Creek Mining
Goldbelt, Inc.
Huna Totem
Shattuck & Grummet
Taku Oil
True North FCU
CAS
Wells Fargo Bank of Alaska
Westmann and Associates

February 8, 2011

Alaska State Legislature
Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau AK, 99801

RE:SB18

Dear Senator Stevens,

It is my pleasure to tell you what a great job your aide Tim Lamkin did last week at chamber lunch presenting information on SB18 extending the second session of the Legislature back to 120 days.

I have represented the Juneau Chamber of Commerce as well as served on the Marine Transportation Advisory Board for the past 6 years. I have had the honor of visiting many legislators during this time regarding issues important to my community as well as all other communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway.

Before the legislative sessions were shortened to 90 days I could call on not only my delegation but legislators from around the state and felt confident that they would have time to hear what I had to say.

Since the change from 120 to 90 days I seldom go directly to any of my legislators during session. If I do I must be prepared to chase them down the hall or if I get lucky I might get 5 minutes of their time. Legislators and their staff seem to be racing from one meeting to the next. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for folks traveling to Juneau to see their legislators especially when I know legislators want to spend time with their constituents.

In conclusion, we whole heartedly support SB18 and hope that at least one year of each session is extended to 120 days. The ideal would be to revert back to 120 days every year.

Thank you so much for your service to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Cathie Roemmich, CEO
Juneau Chamber of Commerce

From: Frances Ulmer [affau@uaa.alaska.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 11:08 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: sessions
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Gary,

I understand that you have introduced legislation to provide a compromise between the 90-day session limit and the 120-day session limit. Based on my personal experience as a legislator, I think that makes sense.

The 90-day session is very popular with the public, and in many ways it helps focus the attention of legislators on the most important business of that year.

What it does not do is allow much time for the public to weigh in on important policy decisions, or enable the legislature to delve more deeply into long-term issues that need the attention of our elected representatives and senators. Some issues are complicated and require both analysis and deliberation. That can be much more challenging when you need to watch the clock and pass a budget.

One other way that the legislature could achieve this goal is with more focused special committee work during the interim. But that approach tends to limit the number of legislators who can effectively participate.

Someday, I hope that the legislature will address the inefficiencies associated with annual budgeting. A two-year cycle for agencies and the legislature would save a lot of time and paper. There will always have to be mid-course (annual) adjustments, but the underlying legal, policy, and program choices can and should be made, in my opinion, with a twenty-four month horizon.

I want to clarify that I am certainly not speaking on behalf of the University of Alaska or UAA or anyone except myself. You asked my opinion and I am happy to share it, although it is based primarily on my experience in a very different decade.

Wishing you a successful session.

Fran

Fran Ulmer

Duration of Alaska's Legislative Sessions

Senate Bill 18

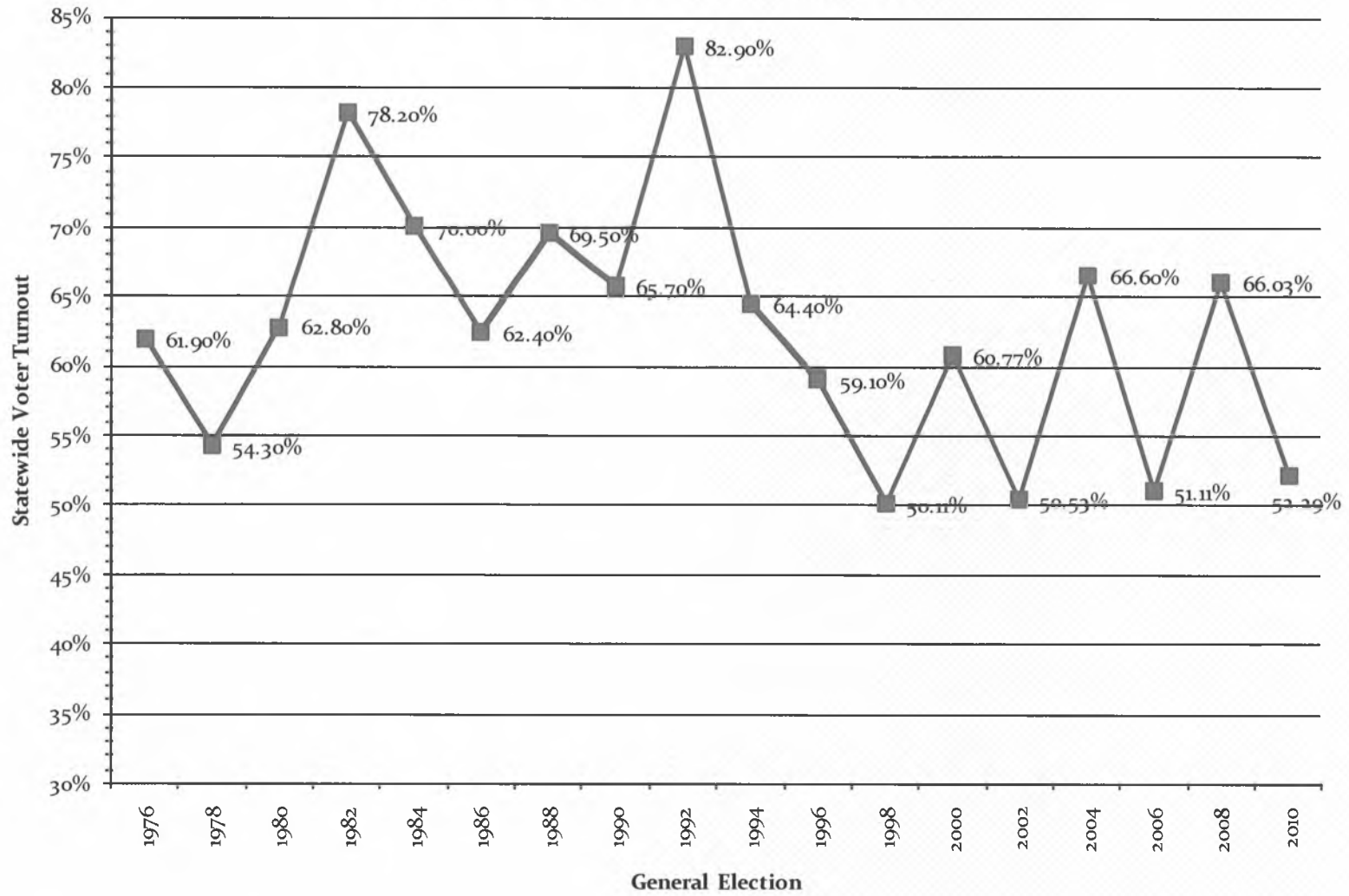
Senator Gary Stevens



SB 18 Strikes A Compromise

- 90-day first session, 120-day second session
- In 2006 voters passed Ballot Measure #1, reducing the legislative sessions to 90 days.
- BM#1 passed by a margin of 50.8% in favor, in what was a notable low voter turnout.

Alaska Voter Turnout 1976-2010






The 90-Day Session vote passed by 3,843 votes.

There were 238,307 total cards cast (voters) statewide during the 2006 general election.

There were 231,507 total cards cast (voters) statewide on BM#1

There were 6,800 people who took a ballot, but didn't vote on BM#1.



Nonetheless, a vote is a vote, and majority rules.
So, we've tried it.

This year will be the 4th session the Legislature has worked under a 90-day limit since that vote took place.

However, the best interests of Alaskans are not being served, nor are the arguments made to support passing BM#1 in the first place being proven valid.



Arguments Made In Favor of Shortening the Session

- 1) Reduce the cost of government.
- 2) 27 other states had shorter sessions than Alaska.
- 3) Legislation to shorten the session had been introduced 24 times since 1990 with no action taken.
- 4) Less time in Juneau would reduce time away from home, family, private sector work, etc, and thus incentivize more quality individuals to run for office.



Reducing the Cost of Government

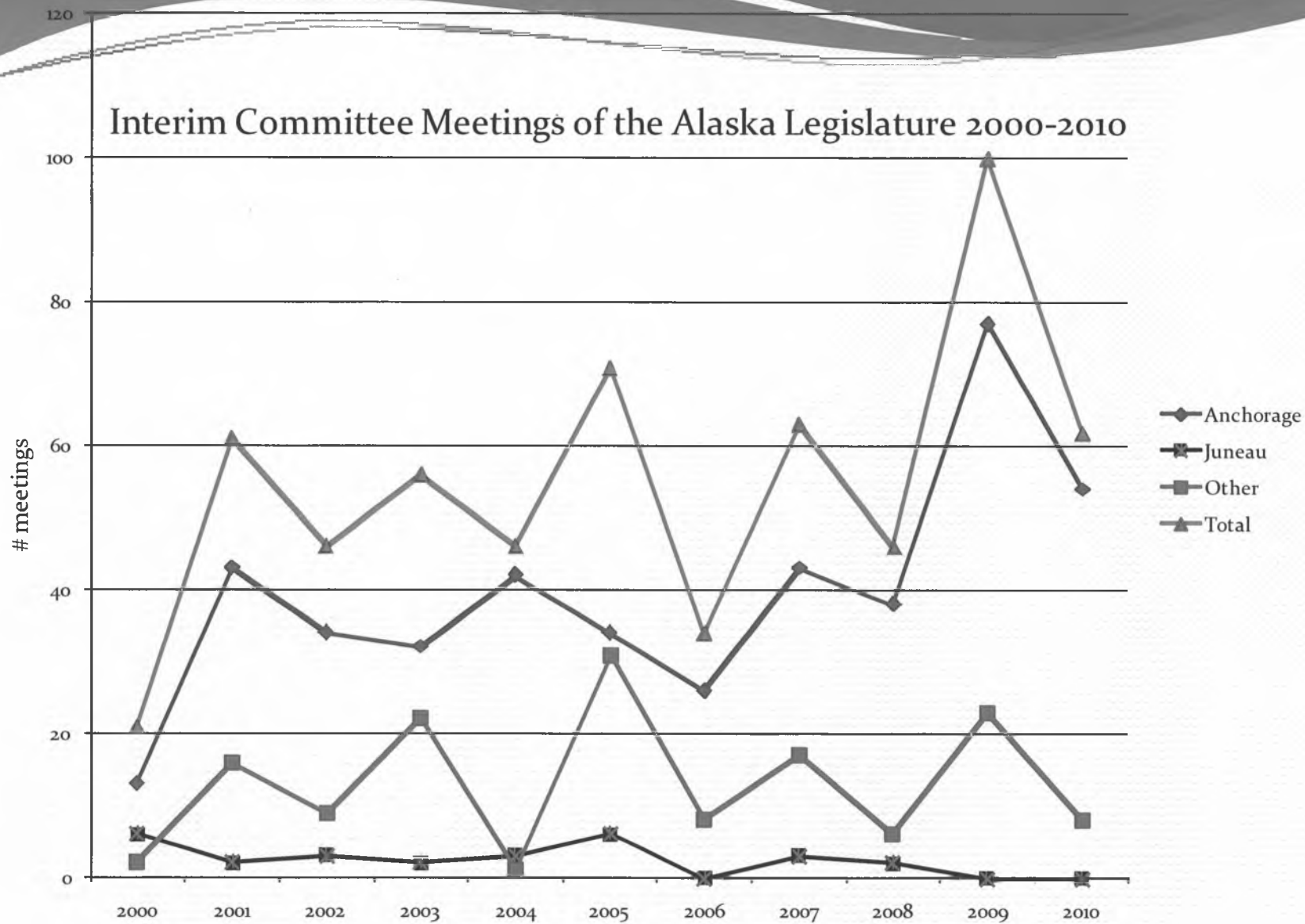
Specifically in the election pamphlet it was stated that “we save 30 days of per diem and expenses of operation of the legislature - paper, copy costs, transportation, etc.”

Actual session costs have been reduced, but the overall operating budget of the Legislature has increased.

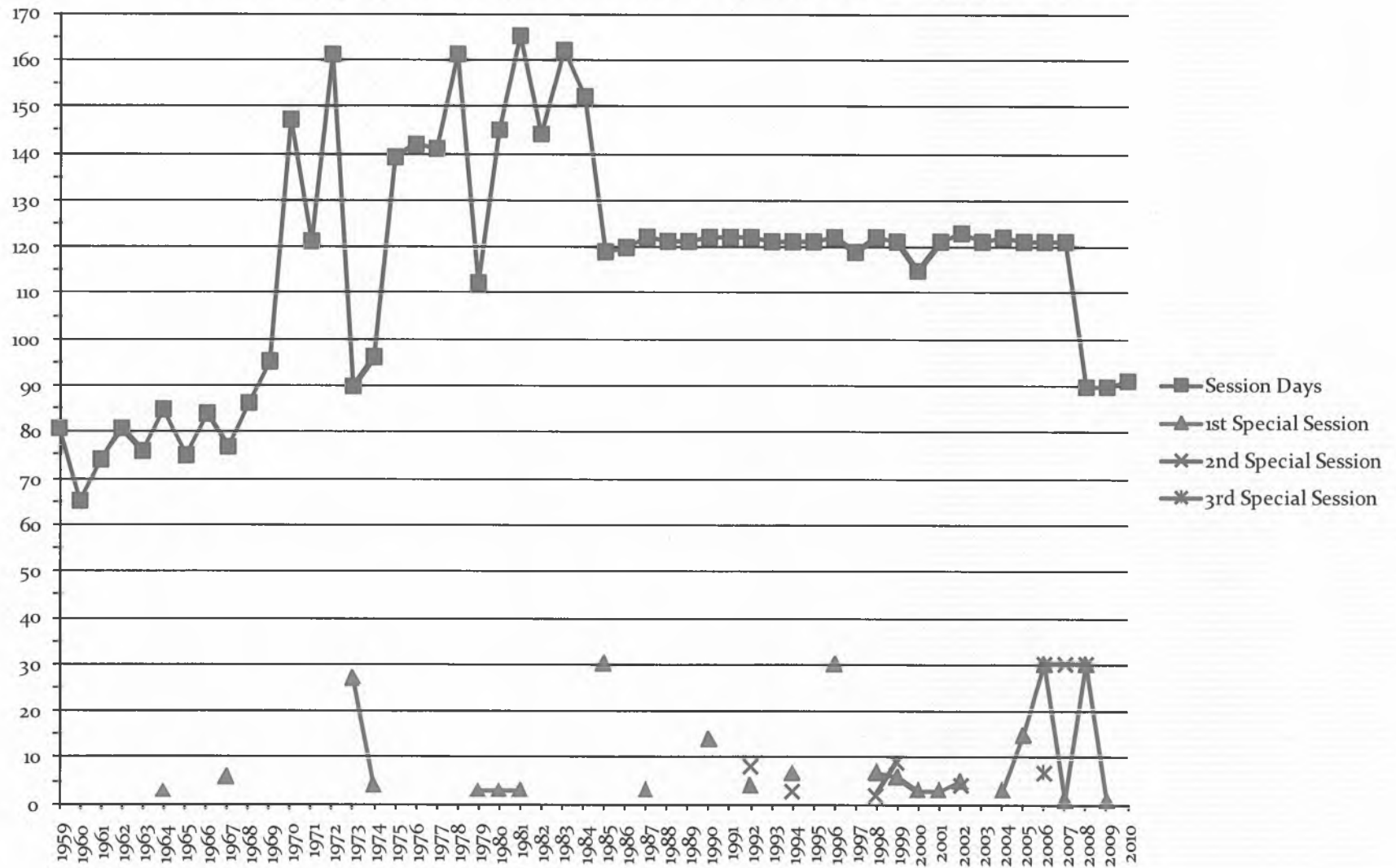
Legislative salaries, session per diem, and travel expenses have increased, and much of it accrues throughout the year, not just during session.

Following our first 90-day regular session, there were two 30-day special sessions in 2008. There has also been an increase in traveling roadshow-style interim committee hearings.

Interim Committee Meetings of the Alaska Legislature 2000-2010



Alaska Legislative Sessions Since Statehood – Days/Session



FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version SB 18
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) SB18-LEG-SES-01-25-11 Dept. Affected Legislature
 Title "An Act relating to the duration of regular sessions of the Appropriation Leg Council, Operating Budget
Legislature and providing for an effective date." Allocation Salaries and Allowances, Session,
Legislative Operating Budget
 Sponsor Senator Stevens
 Requester Senate 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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Analysis

SB 18 increases the number of days of the second session of a Legislature from 90 days to 120 days, beginning with the 28th Legislature which convenes in January 2013. The second session would convene in 2014.

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 Senate Leadership that funding in the special session contingency account be used to absorb the cost of the additional 30 days of regular session.

This will reduce the funding available for special sessions after a second session of a Legislature and would result in a supplemental request for additional funds to cover a special session if one were called.

Basically, the money expected to be “saved” was put aside in anticipation of increased special sessions and interim costs.

The fiscal note didn't say it won't cost anything. Rather that the costs will be absorbed by the existing budget. It has been built into the base. No new appropriation is necessary.



The “savings” represent about 2% of the Legislature’s total operating budget.

The roughly \$50 million spent to operate the Legislative (“People’s”) Branch of government is a drop in the bucket compared to the approx. \$10 *billion* spent by the executive branch agencies.



Point #1

There is not a significant, if any, cost “savings” (reduction in the cost of government) by maintaining a 90-day legislative session.



Point #2

What about there being so many other states limiting the duration of their legislative sessions?

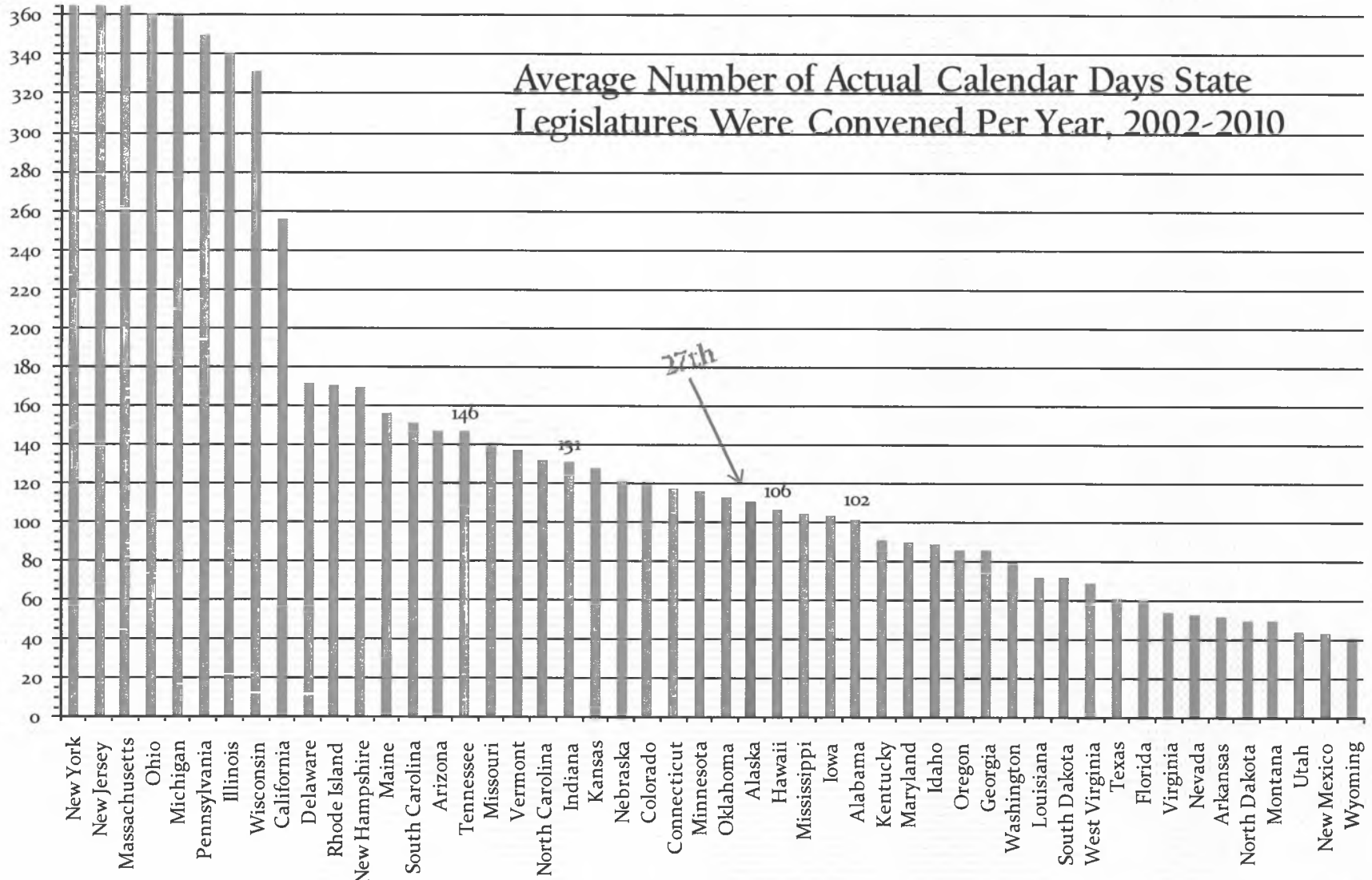
Very common question.

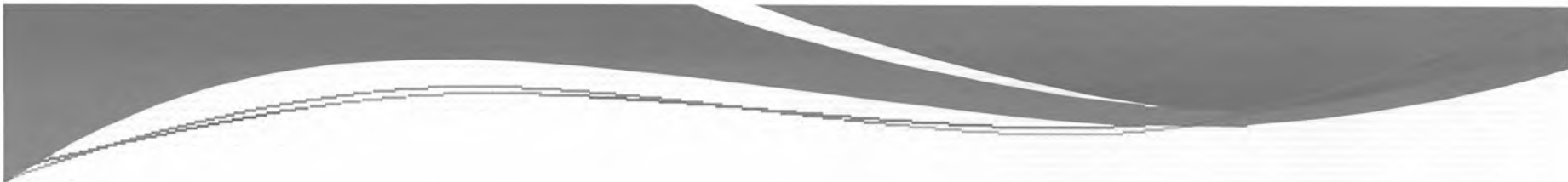
“27 OTHER STATES HAVE SESSIONS SHORTER THAN ALASKA’S

STATE	DAYS OF SESSION		POPULATION
1. ALABAMA	30/105	(odd/even years)	4,400,000 people
2. ALASKA	121	ANNUALLY	660,000 PEOPLE
3. ARKANSAS	60	(every other year)	2,800,000 people
4. FLORIDA	60	(annually)	17,400,000 people
5. GEORGIA	40	(annually)	8,800,000 people
6. HAWAII	60	(annually)	1,300,000 people
7. INDIANA	60/30	(odd/even years)	6,200,000 people
8. IOWA	100/110	(odd/even years)	3,000,000 people
9. KANSAS	0/90	(odd/even years)	2,700,000 people
10. KENTUCKY	30/60	(odd/even years)	4,100,000 people
11. LOUISIANA	60/85	(odd/even years)	4,500,000 people
12. MARYLAND	90	(annually)	5,600,000 people
13. MASSACHUSETTS	Jan. to Nov. 15	(every other year)	6.4 million people
14. MONTANA	90	(every other year)	930,000 people
15. NEBRASKA	90/60	(odd/even years)	1,700,000 people
16. NEVADA	120	(every other year)	2,300,000 people
17. NEW HAMPSHIRE	45	(annually)	1,300,000 people
18. NEW MEXICO	60/30	(odd/even years)	1,900,000 people
19. NORTH DAKOTA	80	(every other year)	635,000 people
20. OREGON	no time limit	(every other year)	3,600,000 people
21. SOUTH DAKOTA	40/35	(odd/even years)	770,000 people
22. TENNESSEE	90	(annually)	5,900,000 people
23. TEXAS	140	(every other year)	22,000,000 people
24. UTAH	45	(annually)	2,400,000 people
25. VIRGINIA	30/60	(odd/even years)	7,500,000 people
26. WASHINGTON	105/60	(odd/even years)	6,200,000 people
27. WEST VIRGINIA	60	(annually)	1,800,000 people
28. WYOMING	40/20	(odd/even years)	506,000 people

Methods By Which Legislative Sessions Are Limited

Constitution (28 states)	Statute (5 states)	Chamber Rule (3 states)	Indirect Method (3 states)	No Limit (11 states)
Arkansas Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico North Dakota Oklahoma Oregon South Dakota Texas Utah Virginia Washington West Virginia Wyoming	Alabama Alaska Indiana Maine South Carolina	Arizona California Massachusetts	Iowa New Hampshire Tennessee	Idaho Illinois Michigan New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Wisconsin





Every state is different, unique and has its own reasons for choosing to operate its legislature the way it does.

Similarly, Alaska is known as a do-it-yourself type state, so in this case why not say..



Point #2

Who cares what the other states are doing?

We're in the middle of the road on this issue,
and SB 18 moves us even closer to the
middle.



Point #3

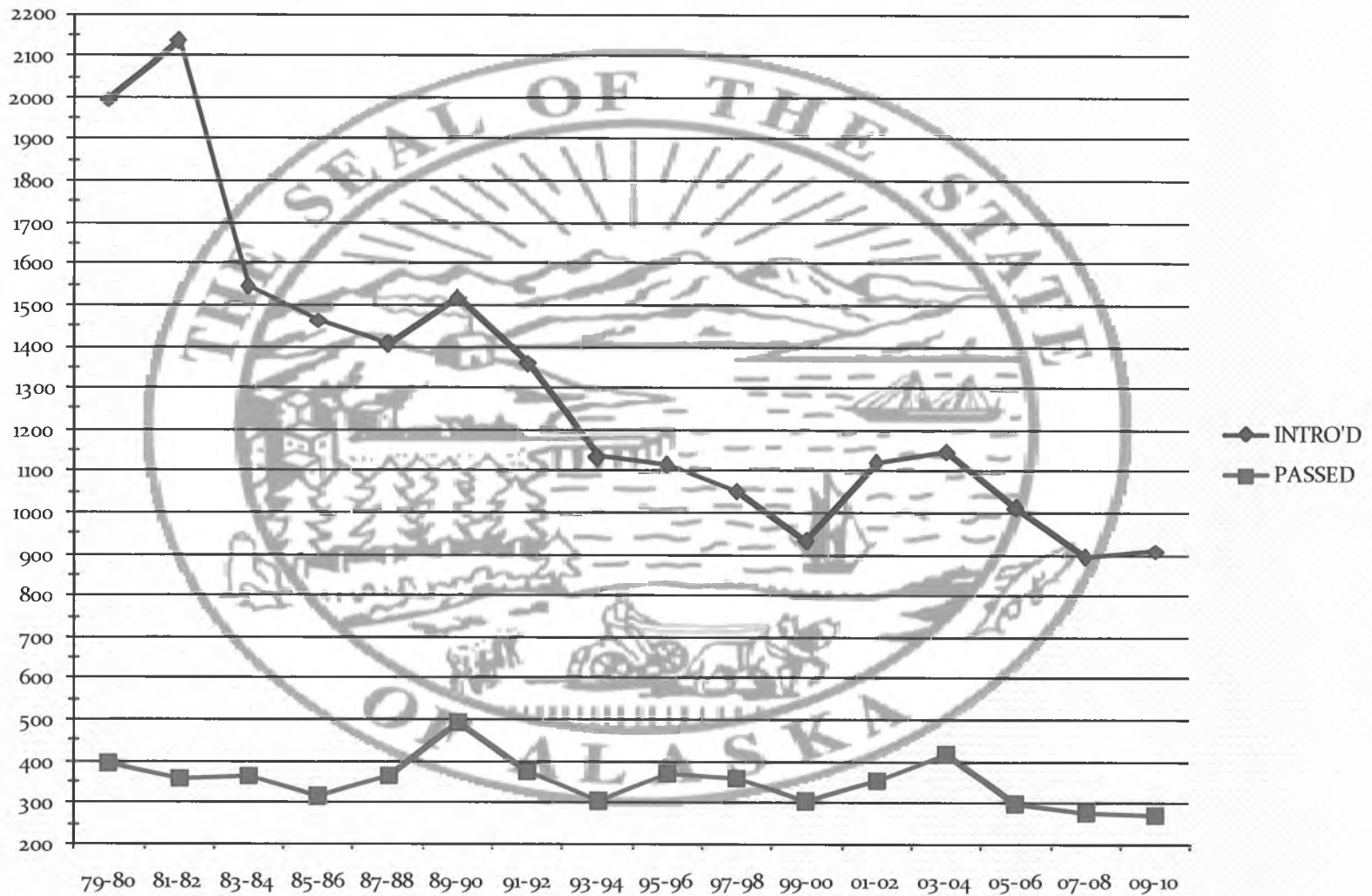
But legislation was introduced 24 times since 1990 in an effort to shorten the session, and each attempt failed.



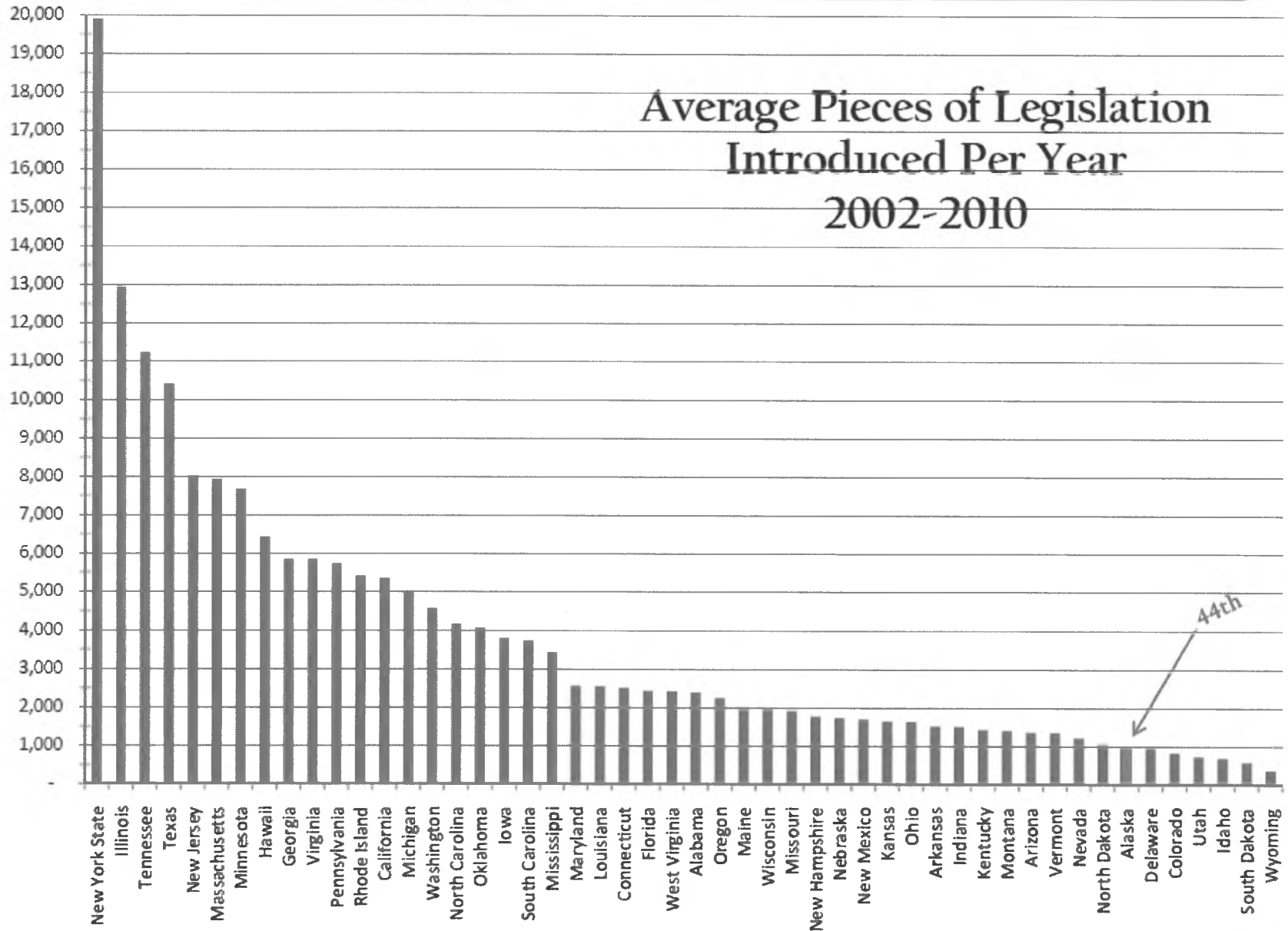
Legislation that has no likelihood of passing is introduced almost every day of session.

The Legislature has the prerogative to act or not act on any issue, and there are always more issues than there are actions.

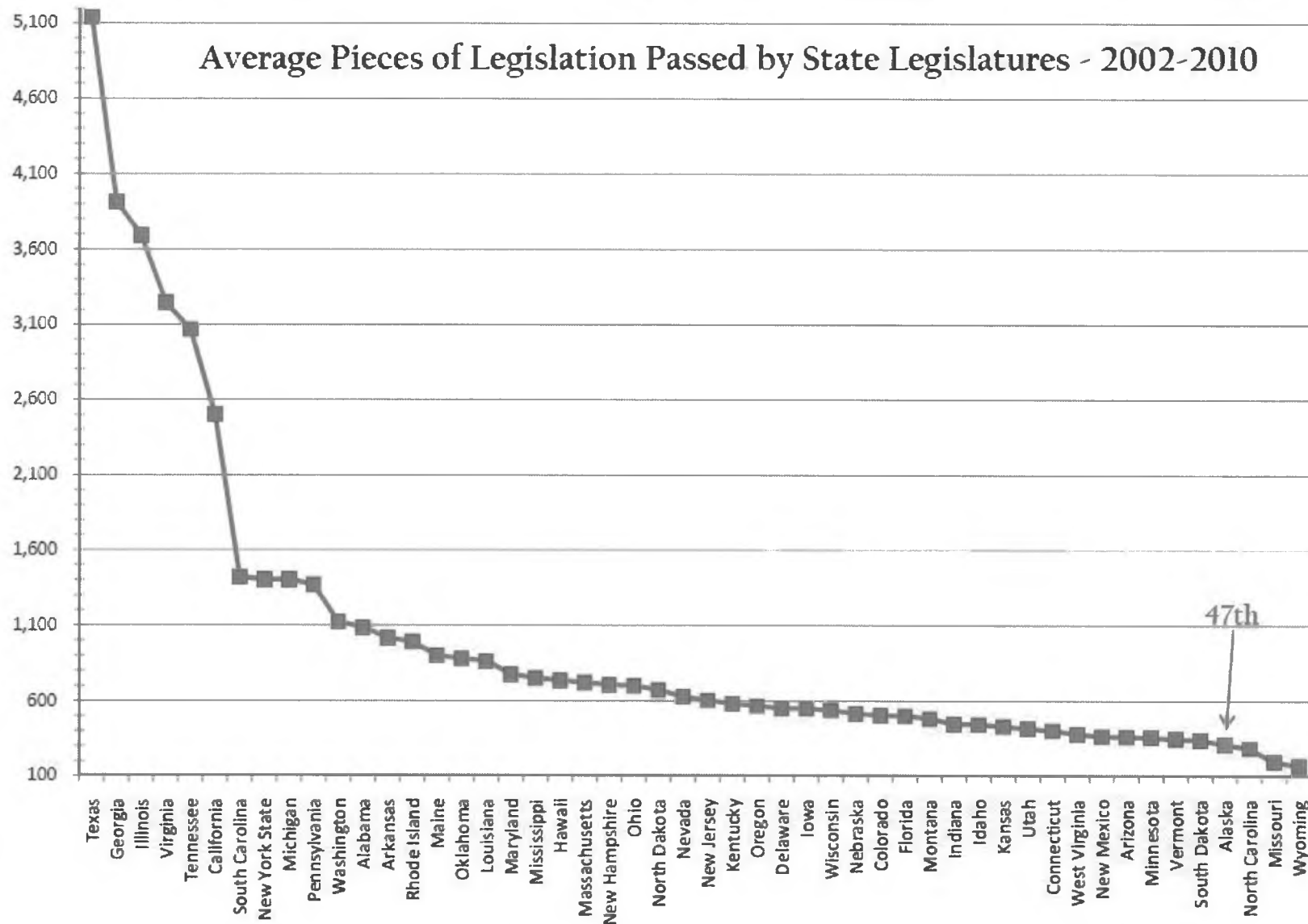
Alaska Legislation Introduced & Passed 1979-2010



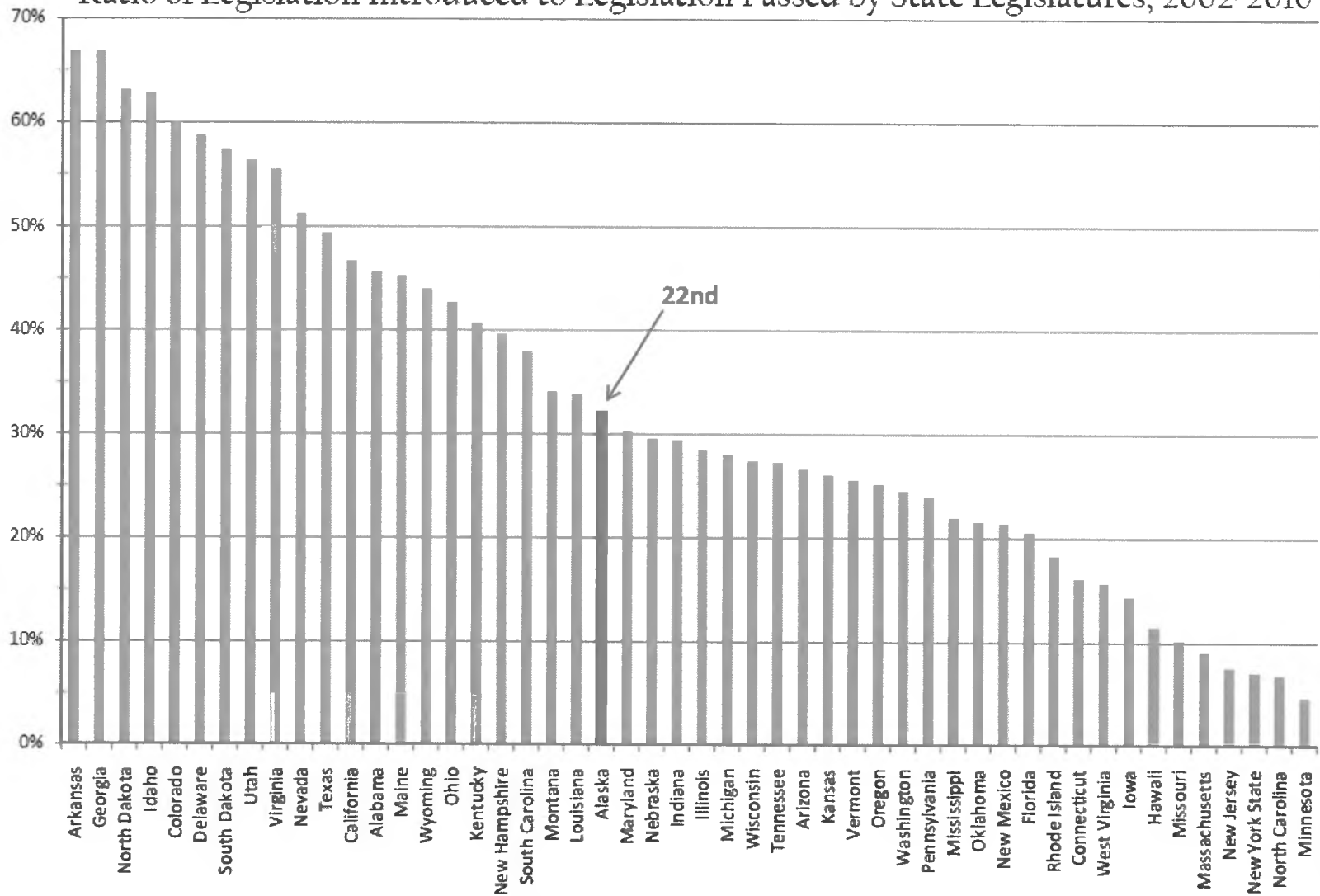
Average Pieces of Legislation Introduced Per Year 2002-2010



Average Pieces of Legislation Passed by State Legislatures - 2002-2010



Ratio of Legislation Introduced to Legislation Passed by State Legislatures, 2002-2010





Legislation that has no likelihood of passing is
introduced almost every day of session.

Perennial Issues:

Abortion
Move the Capitol
Oil & Gas Taxation
Subsistence
Coastal Zone Management
School Truancy
Mining Taxes
Etc etc



Point #3

By the reasoning of this argument supporting BM#1, should any bill that fails to pass the Legislature after X number of attempts be automatically forwarded to the ballot box for a vote?



Point #3

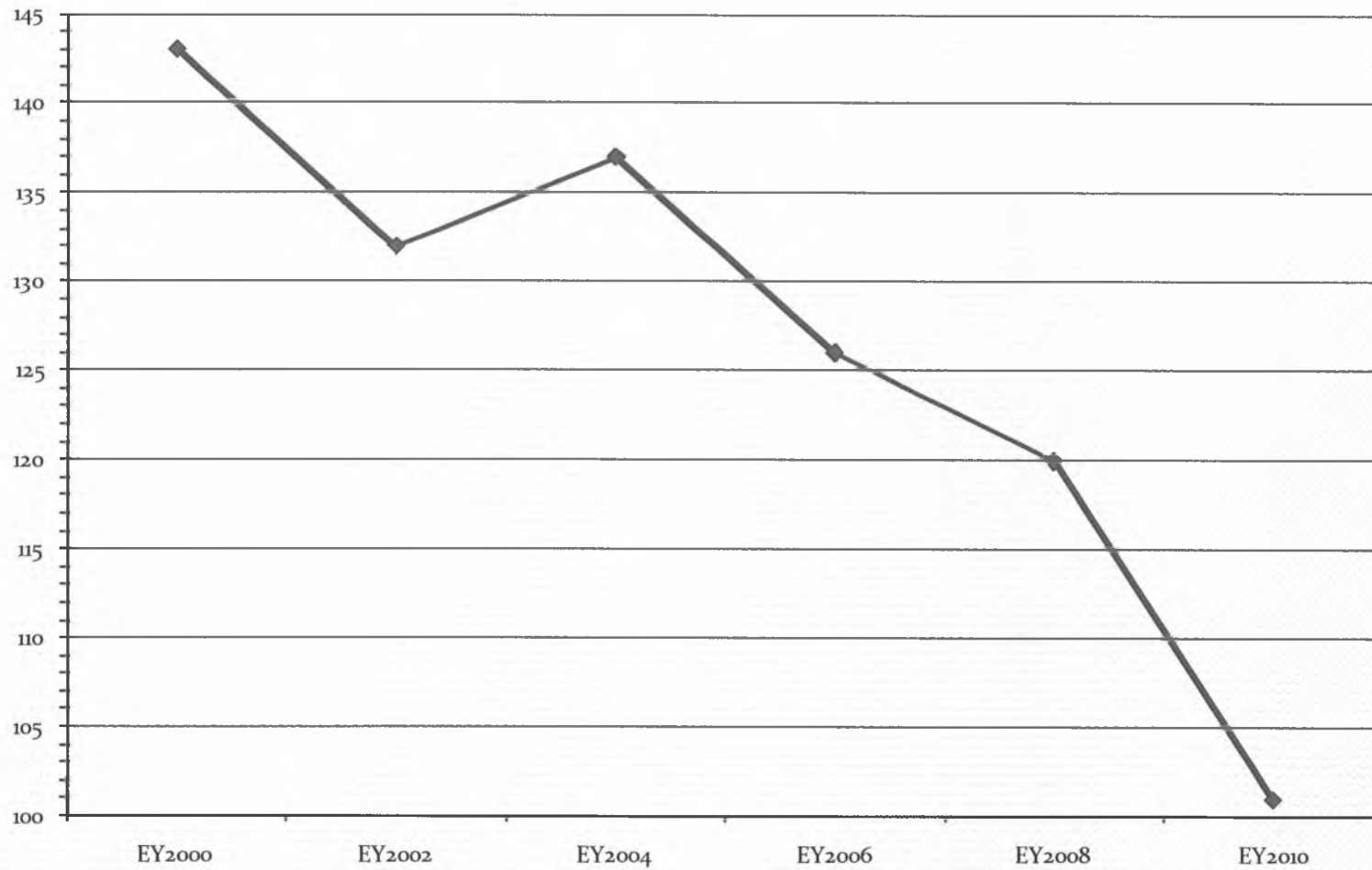
It is not a valid argument to say something should become law simply because the Legislature has consistently chosen not to make it a law on its own.



Point #4

A shorter session means less time away from home, away from family, away from work in the private sector, etc, and thus will incent more “competition” between quality individuals to run for office.

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





Point #4

Since the 2006 vote to shorten the legislative sessions, the candidate pool has shrunk 20%; the opposite of what was argued in favor of passing BM#1 .

Other considerations to restore a 120-day session:

1. Public testimony & the deliberative process
2. Staff workloads
3. House Subcommittee Evaluation Survey
4. Balance of Power – Executive Branch

SB 18 Strikes A Compromise

90-Day First Session

120-Day Second Session

Senator Gary Stevens