

# HCR

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# Representative Sam Kito III

Alaska State Legislature

DATE: 5-February 2016

TO: Representative Bob Lynn  
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Sam Kito 

RE: HCR 20 – Uniform Rules: Joint Resolution Vote Requirement

I respectfully request that the House State Affairs Committee schedule HCR 20 - Uniform Rules: Joint Resolution Vote Requirement for a hearing. HCR 20 proposes an amendment to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to the vote required for the passage of a joint resolution.

Please find attached:

- House Concurrent Resolution 20, version A
- Sponsor statement

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff, Tally Teal, at 465-4875.

Sincerely,



Rep. Sam Kito III



# Representative Sam Kito III

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Alaska State Legislature

## **Sponsor Statement**

### **House Concurrent Resolution 20**

#### **Uniform Rules: Joint Resolution Vote Requirement**

House Concurrent Resolution 20 updates the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature to require a two-thirds majority vote to pass a Joint Resolution from the Legislature.

Joint resolutions are used to express the will, wish, view, opinion, sympathy or request of the Legislature to the President, the Congress, agencies of the US Government, or the Governments of other states. Because of their intended audience, joint resolutions carry significant weight; such responsibility should not be taken lightly, nor should the message be defined by a simple majority of the Legislature.

With the exception of joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Alaska Constitution (Article XIII, Section 1), joint resolutions require only a simple majority to pass each body of the Legislature. HCR 20 raises the threshold for passing a joint resolution to a two-thirds majority. With more members required to pass a resolution, the time spent debating on the Floor will decrease, and the Legislative bodies will be more united in support of the content and direction of resolutions. This will ensure that the resolution achieves the intended purpose of serving as the unified, representative voice of the Legislature.

Joint resolutions denying actions of the Local Boundary Commission will still be subject to a simple majority vote, per the Constitution (Article X, Section 12).

Please join me in supporting this simple and streamlining resolution.