

**HJR**

**13**

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# Alaska State Legislature

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## Sponsor Statement House Joint Resolution 13

HJR13 Provides support for legislation introduced by Alaska's Delegation in the United States Senate to study the current division of U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal with a recommendation that the United States Congress divide the Ninth Circuit into two circuit courts based on its current size, current and anticipated caseload, and history of processing cases significantly slower than the national average. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is currently 85% larger than the next largest circuit in the nation, and encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Sens. Murkowski and Sullivan have sponsored or cosponsored both pieces of federal legislation considered by this resolution. Under the proposed legislation, Alaska would be assigned to the Twelfth Circuit, which would continue to include as many states as the largest circuit court in the nation (Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington).