

**SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARA, Tuck, Parish

Introduced: 1/22/18

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary, Finance

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the**  
2 **membership and actions of the Redistricting Board and relating to district boundaries**  
3 **and the establishment of a nonpartisan statewide district map.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** Article VI, sec. 6, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

6 **Section 6. District Boundaries.** The Redistricting Board shall establish **a**  
7 **nonpartisan statewide district map with** the size and area of **each** house **district**  
8 [DISTRICTS], subject to the limitations of this article. Each house district shall be  
9 formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a  
10 relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population **within two**  
11 **and one-half percent of** [AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO] the quotient obtained  
12 by dividing the population of the **State** [STATE] by forty. Each senate district shall be  
13 composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts. Consideration may  
14 be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall  
15 be used in describing boundaries wherever possible.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** Article VI, sec. 8(a), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

2 (a) There shall be a redistricting board. All members of the board [IT  
3 SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM] shall be residents of the  
4 State and registered voters who have voted in each of the previous four state  
5 general and primary elections, [FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR] and none of whom  
6 may be public employees or officials at the time of or during the tenure of  
7 appointment. Except as provided under (f) of this section, the board shall consist  
8 of

9 (1) two members affiliated with the political party with the largest  
10 number of affiliated voters registered in the State, selected in a manner  
11 prescribed by that party's bylaws;

12 (2) two members affiliated with the political party with the second  
13 largest number of affiliated voters registered in the State, selected in a manner  
14 prescribed by that party's bylaws; and

15 (3) one member who is not registered as affiliated with a political  
16 party and who has not been registered as affiliated with a political party within  
17 the preceding ten years, selected as provided in (e) of this section  
18 [APPOINTMENTS SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL  
19 AFFILIATION. BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE COMPENSATED].

20 \* **Sec. 3.** Article VI, sec. 8(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

21 (b) Members of the Redistricting Board shall be compensated and shall  
22 [APPOINTED IN THE YEAR IN WHICH AN OFFICIAL DECENNIAL CENSUS  
23 OF THE UNITED STATES IS TAKEN AND BY SEPTEMBER 1 OF THAT YEAR.  
24 THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. THE  
25 PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE SENATE, THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE  
26 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE  
27 SUPREME COURT SHALL EACH APPOINT ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD.  
28 THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD SHALL BE MADE IN THE ORDER  
29 LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION. AT LEAST ONE BOARD MEMBER SHALL BE  
30 A RESIDENT OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT THAT EXISTED ON JANUARY 1,  
31 1999. BOARD MEMBERS] serve until a final plan for redistricting and proclamation

1 of redistricting has been adopted and all challenges to it brought under Section 11 of  
 2 this article have been resolved after final remand or affirmation.

3 \* **Sec. 4.** Article VI, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding new  
 4 subsections to read:

5 (d) A member of the Redistricting Board may not

6 (1) have held a compensated or uncompensated position with a  
 7 political party in the State;

8 (2) be a former elected state or municipal official; or

9 (3) have contributed

10 (A) more than two hundred dollars to a single candidate in a  
 11 state or local election in the previous four years;

12 (B) money in the previous five years to a group that has made  
 13 expenditures to influence the outcome of a state or local election.

14 (e) The four members of the Redistricting Board selected under (a)(1) and (2)  
 15 of this section shall, by majority vote, not later than October 1 of the year in which a  
 16 decennial census of the United States is taken, select the fifth member of the board.

17 (f) If the four members of the Redistricting Board selected under (a)(1) and (2)  
 18 of this section have not selected the fifth member by October 1 or if the four members  
 19 of the board notify the Alaska supreme court before October 1 that they are unable to  
 20 agree on a fifth member, then the supreme court shall select five individuals who the  
 21 supreme court determines are nonpartisan and are not likely to side philosophically  
 22 with either of the two largest political parties to join the four members selected under  
 23 (a)(1) and (2) of this section for a nine-member board. The supreme court shall hold a  
 24 thirty-day application period and shall make the appointments on or before  
 25 December 31.

26 (g) The contribution limit under (d)(3)(A) of this section may be adjusted for  
 27 inflation by law.

28 \* **Sec. 5.** Article VI, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

29 **Section 9. Board Actions. Once the board is fully empaneled under Section**  
 30 **8 of this article, it** [THE BOARD] shall elect one of its members **chair**  
 31 [CHAIRMAN] and may employ temporary assistants. Concurrence of **a majority of**

1        **the** [THREE] members of the Redistricting Board is required for actions of the Board,  
 2        but a lesser number may conduct hearings. The board

3                    **(1)** shall employ or contract for services of independent legal counsel;

4        **and**

5                    **(2)** **may solicit or contract for technical expertise or district**  
 6        **mapping resources the board considers necessary.**

7        \* **Sec. 6.** Article VI, sec. 10(b), Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

8                    (b) Adoption of a final redistricting plan shall require the affirmative votes of

9        **a majority of the** [THREE] members of the Redistricting Board.

10       \* **Sec. 7.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of  
 11       the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the  
 12       State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.