

Introduced by: Brandon  
Date: Feb. 17, 1981  
Vote: Unanimous  
Action: Adopted

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 81-43

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER, AND TO IMPLEMENT IF PRACTICABLE, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

WHEREAS, the procedures adopted for the conduct of the Legislature's business affect every Alaskan; and

WHEREAS, the proceedings of the Legislature, and of those committees acting on behalf of the Legislature, when enacting bills and appropriations should be open to the scrutiny of the public; and

WHEREAS, legislative procedure should be simplified in order to make it more comprehensible to the citizens of this state and to avoid abuses which occasionally occur, especially with regard to the appointment and procedures of free conference committees, interim committees and standing committees; and

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Anchorage Committee, has studied certain procedures of the Legislature and has sponsored a Legislative Study Committee Report, Part 1, dated January, 1981, which considers these questions in detail and which presents to the Legislature a fresh perspective on the legislative procedure;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

Section 1. That the Assembly commends to the attention of the Legislature the "Legislative Study Committee Report, Part 1," and urges the Legislature to consider whether the various proposals set forth are practicable, would simplify the legislative process and make it more comprehensible to the citizens of the state, and whether such procedure should be implemented.

Section 2. That the Assembly requests the Legislature to consider in particular the desirability of providing for the following changes to legislative procedure:

1. Alteration of the free conference committee procedures to provide that a free conference committee shall not be convened until two con-

secutive conference committees are unable to reach a compromise on a proposed bill and that free conference powers are granted only for specific areas of disagreement. Further, the Assembly suggests that all conference and free conference bills be printed, made available to the Legislature and the public 24 hours prior to voting and that all budget-related conference committee meetings shall be open to the public.

2. Enactment of a "bill content" rule to provide that every bill passed by either House shall contain not more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

3. That the public is informed of the meetings of standing committees under agendas five days prior to the meeting of each committee.

4. The Senate and House Finance Committees should consider the scheduling of joint sessions for the purpose of public hearings on proposed or pending legislation.

5. Each committee report on pending or proposed legislation should clearly indicate the fiscal impact and legislative intent of the bill and should include a recommendation by each committee member as to whether the bill should be passed or not.

6. The Legislature should not establish interim committees except those authorized by state constitution or statute, or by resolution by either one or both Houses.

7. The legislative session should be limited to 120 days and any extension beyond that time should be for a specific number of days and authorized only by two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

8. The Assembly suggests that the Legislature consider providing for a limitation upon the number of consecutive terms which a person might serve as a Representative or as a Senator in each House.

9. The Legislature should establish a strict code of ethics and a mechanism for dealing with potential violations.

10. The Legislature should provide for tighter control of the award of contracts for legislative professional service and for increased oversight of such contracts.

Section 3. That the Clerk serve a copy of this resolution upon the Honorable Jalmar Kerttula, President of the State Senate, upon the Honorable James Duncan, Speaker of the State House, upon the Honorable Donald E. Gilman, State Senator, and upon the Honorables Bette Cato, Hugh Malone, and Pat O'Connell, State Representatives.

Section 4. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
ON THIS 17 DAY OF February, 1981.

Paula Fischer  
Paul Fischer, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Frances Bryner  
Borough Clerk

