



# There Oughta Be A Law!



## The Legislative Process: Idea to Statute

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*Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy*

# Sources & Authorities

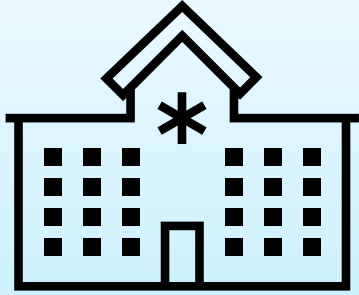
Alaska Constitution

Alaska Statutes

Decisions of the Alaska Supreme Court

Uniform Rules of Alaska Legislature

Manual of Legislative Drafting



# State Government Refresher

Bicameral Legislature –  
two bodies –

Senate - 20 members, 4  
year terms

House – 40 members, 2  
year terms



Senate

House

# Terms

**Legislature** – a two-year period, from start of the session mid-January after every general election, through the beginning of the session after the next general election. Since statehood they have been numbered.

**Session** – The first year (odd year) a legislature meets is the first session; the second year (even year) the legislature meets is the second session.

*Thus, the first session of the 32<sup>nd</sup> legislature is presently underway.*

**Chamber** – The Senate and House of Representatives are each a chamber.

*The Speaker of the House and the Senate President led their respective chambers.*

**Bill** – Used to amend a state law.

**Resolution** - Used to express will, wish, view, opinion, or sympathy of one chamber.

**Joint Resolution** - Used to express to view or wish to President, Congress, Federal Agency or to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution or amend the Alaska Constitution.

# Process -- Idea to Statute

1. Idea
2. Bill Drafting
3. Introduction - First Reading
4. Committee one hearings
5. Committee two hearings
6. Rules committee
7. Second Reading
8. Third Reading
9. Vote
10. Sent To Other chamber
11. Repeat 3-9
12. Conference Committee
13. Each Chamber Votes
14. To governor
15. Enrollment

# IDEA

- Individual, constituent
- Social or professional group, nonprofit
- State agency
- Local Government
- Lobbyist
- Legislator
- Legislative committee
- Governor





# Sell Your Idea

A. Shop Around

Who is your Senator and Representative?

Who is on the pertinent committee?

Who is committee chair?

What legislator has previously championed the issue or similar issue?

B. Contact legislator/staff/committee

Generate enthusiasm

Do preliminary drafting



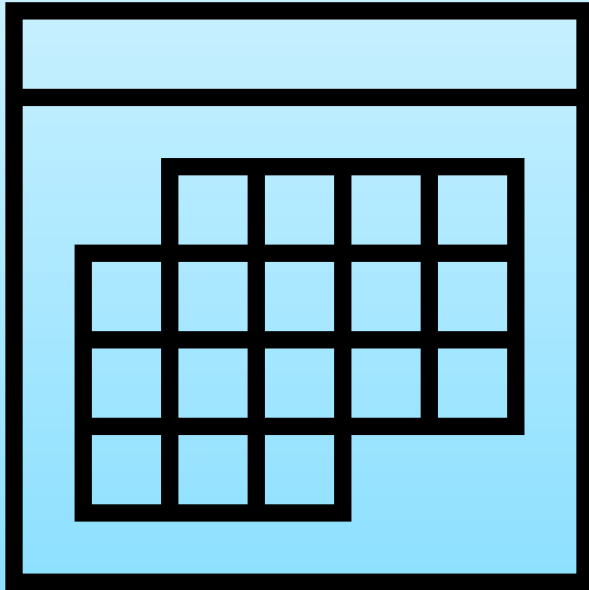
# Bill Drafting

Alaska Law AS 24.08  
Uniform Rules of Alaska  
Legislature  
Legislative Drafting Manual

Consider:

1. What is the issue or problem the idea is trying to remedy?
2. What are some examples of the problem or issue.
3. What needs to be changed?
- 4 . What is the desired result?

# Bill Filing Deadlines



By individual legislators:  
Prefile (10), before legislature convenes  
through day 35 of second session ~late  
February.

Committees – during session

Expiration  
Contrast Legislature with session

# How Do you Read a Bill?

## What is the Code?

### Heading

Legislature/Session

Which house

Bill number

Name of sponsor(s)

Committee referrals

Date introduced


### Title

Must contain every subject of bill

Reasonable notice of subject

Prevent “surreptitious introduction”

Must be a single subject



IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Sullivan-Leonard**

**Introduced: 2/20/19**

**Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs, Finance**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1    **"An Act relating to the relocating and convening of the legislature at the Legislative**  
2    **Information Office in Anchorage; relating to the regulation of lobbying; relating to**  
3    **annual student guests of the legislature; relating to locations of sessions of the**  
4    **legislature; relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to the relocation of functions**  
5    **of state government; and providing for an effective date."**

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

## HOUSE BILL NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Sullivan-Leonard

Introduced: 2/20/19

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the relocating and convening of the legislature at the Legislative  
2 Information Office in Anchorage; relating to the regulation of lobbying; relating to  
3 annual student guests of the legislature; relating to locations of sessions of the  
4 legislature; relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to the relocation of functions  
5 of state government; and providing for an effective date."

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7      \* Section 1. AS 15.13.072(d) is amended to read:

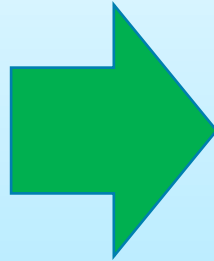
(d) While the legislature is convened in a regular or special legislative session, a legislator or legislative employee may not solicit or accept a contribution to be used for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election under this chapter unless

(1) it is an election in which the legislator or legislative employee is a candidate and the contribution is for that legislator's or legislative employee's campaign;

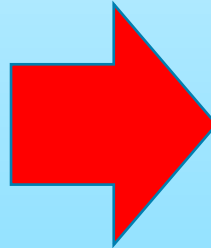
# Bill Code II

- Separate section of bill for each statute changed
- Sections in arranged numerically according to system of order of Alaska law
- Additions to existing statutes are in bold and underlined.
- Entirely New sections are in bold
- [DELETIONS FROM EXISTING STATUTES ARE IN CAPS BETWEEN BRACKETS]

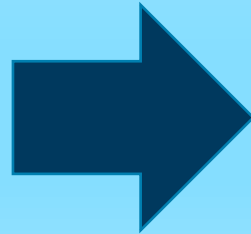
# Additions



# [DELETIONS]



# Key



(2) the solicitation or acceptance occurs during the 90 days immediately preceding that election; and

(3) the solicitation or acceptance occurs in a place other than the Municipality of Anchorage during a regular session [CAPITAL CITY] or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the Municipality of Anchorage [CAPITAL CITY].

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.13.072(g) is amended to read:

(g) A candidate or an individual who has filed with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100 for election or reelection to the office of governor or lieutenant governor may not solicit or accept a contribution in the Municipality of Anchorage [CAPITAL CITY] while the legislature is convened in a regular or special legislative session.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 24.05.090 is amended to read:

**Sec. 24.05.090. Duration of legislature; sessions.** The legislature shall convene in the Municipality of Anchorage at the Legislative Information Office [CAPITAL] each year on the third Tuesday in January at 1:00 p.m. Each legislature has a duration of two years and consists of a "First Regular Session" that meets in the odd-numbered years, and a "Second Regular Session" that meets in the even-numbered years, and any special session that the governor or legislature calls.

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 24.05.100(b) is amended to read:

(b) A special session may be held at any location in the state. If a special session called under (a)(1) of this section is to be convened at a location other than the Legislative Information Office in the Municipality of Anchorage [AT THE CAPITAL], the governor shall designate the location in the proclamation. If a special session called under (a)(2) of this section is to be convened at a location other than the Legislative Information Office in the Municipality of Anchorage [AT THE CAPITAL], the presiding officers shall agree to and designate the location in the poll conducted of the members of both houses.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 24.10.030 is amended to read:

**Sec. 24.10.030. Chief clerk and senate secretary.** Each house shall select

# Standing Committees

*with pertinent subject areas*

- **Community & Regional Affairs** – *local governments, unorganized borough, economic development*
- **Education & Early Childhood**, *preschool, k-12, University*
- **Finance** – *appropriations, revenue, taxing, bonds*
- **Health & Social Services** – *Child & Elder protection, Pioneer Homes, API, Juvenile Justice, Denali Kid Care*
- **Judiciary** – *Court system, criminal and civil law, department of law*

# More Standing Committees

*With pertinent subject areas*

- **Labor & Commerce** - *Labor relations, worker safety, unemployment, workers comp, commerce*
- **Resources** – *Fish & game, environmental conservation, natural resources*
- **Rules** – *Calendar, sponsors governor's bills, uniform rules, management of legislature, hire legislative staff (Sgt. of Arms, pages, committee staff)*
- **State Affairs** – *Military & veterans' affairs, public safety, corrections, public facilities*
- **Transportation** – *Roads, bridges, airports, ferries*



# Committee Structure

Odd number of members

Chair is designated by chamber leadership

Members are designated by the committee on committees

Number of minority members determined by Legislative rules

Usually have regular meeting days and time

Meetings recorded; journal kept.

## HOUSE

SIZE OF MINORITY	SIZE OF COMMITTEE				
	5	7	9	11	13
19 (.475)	2	3	4	5	6
18 (.45)	2	3	4	4	5
17 (.425)	2	2	3	4	5
16 (.4)	2	2	3	4	5
15 (.375)	1	2	3	4	4
14 (.35)	1	2	3	3	4
13 (.325)	1	2	2	3	4
12 (.3)	1	2	2	3	3
11 (.275)	1	1	2	3	3
10 (.25)	1	1	2	2	3



# First Committee Consideration (CRA)

Presentations

Consider bills & resolutions

May hear from: Agency, sponsor, staff, citizens, stakeholders,

Fiscal note

Amendments

Committee substitute

Vote, Committee report

Back to Clerk/Secretary – refer to next committee

# Second Committee Consideration (SA)

Presentations,

Consider Bills & resolutions

Hear from: Agency, sponsor, staff, citizens,  
stakeholders,

Fiscal note

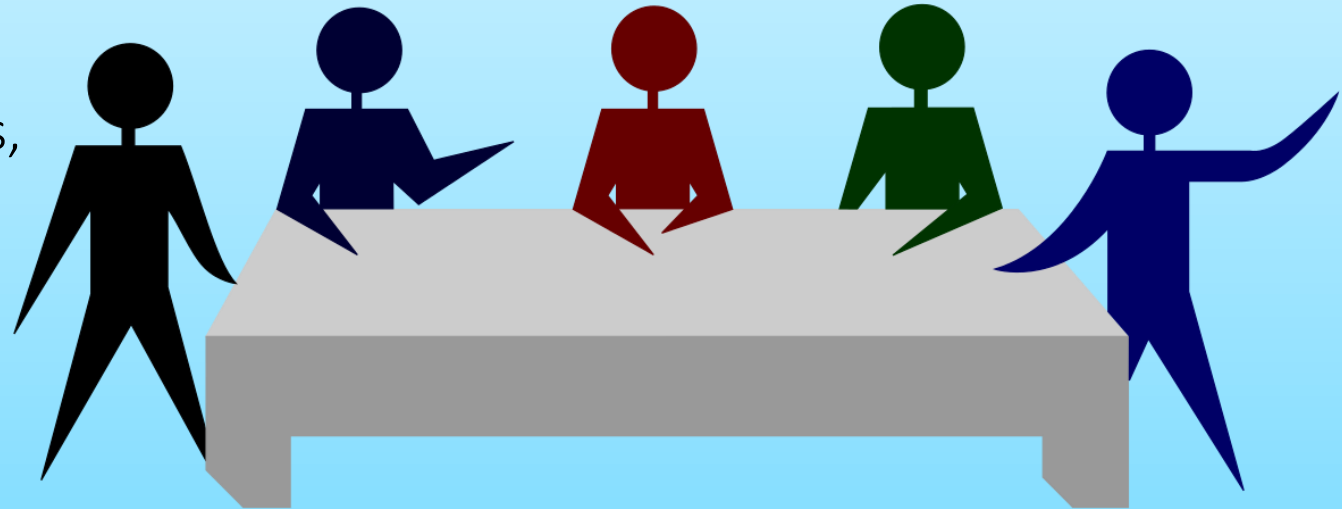
Amendments

Committee substitute

Vote, Committee Report

Back to Clerk/Secretary

To Rules Committee



# Be an Influencer

- Speak at the committee hearing
- Provide written materials to committee members
- Present a power-point
- Send POM, e-mail, snail-mail
- Encourage like minded people to contact & message



# Rules Committee

Calendars Second & Third readings

May:

Amend

Issue committee substitute





# Floor Debate



## Second Reading

Title is read, with committee report

May be amended

Vote on bill w/ amendments

Reprinted

To Rules Committee

Put back on calendar for third reading

# Floor Debate



## Third Reading

Read heading and title only, no committee report

No amendments permitted

Yeas/nays recorded in journal

# To Other Chamber & Repeat

First reading, committee referrals

First committee consideration

Second committee consideration

Rules committee

To Floor, Second reading

To Rules Committee

To Floor, Third reading

To Rules Committee

Vote

Sent back to original chamber



# Disagreement Between Chambers

Return Original Chamber

Motion to concur

If concur – enrollment/leg legal

If no concurrence – sent to conference committee.

# Conference Committee

Three members appointed by chair of each chamber

Resolve points of conflict, and report resolution to each chamber

# Free Conference Committee

If conference report is rejected or bill is not accepted by both chambers, free conference committee (new people) appointed

Whole bill is subject to consideration

Report to each chamber

Floor Vote

# Governor

Governor has 15 days, if legislature in session, or 20 days, if not,  
to sign, or  
let become law without signature,  
veto, with explanation

## Veto Override

Joint session, 2/3s to override,  
3/4 if appropriations or revenue

1 temporary location or locations. The temporary location or locations shall remain the  
2 emergency seat of government or location of the legislative session until the  
3 emergency is declared to be ended by the governor and the seat of government or  
4 session is returned to its normal location.  
5 \* Sec. 16. AS 44.06.050, 44.06.055, and 44.06.060 are repealed.  
6 \* Sec. 17. This Act takes effect January 1, 2021.

# Statute

Effective date

Session law

Publication

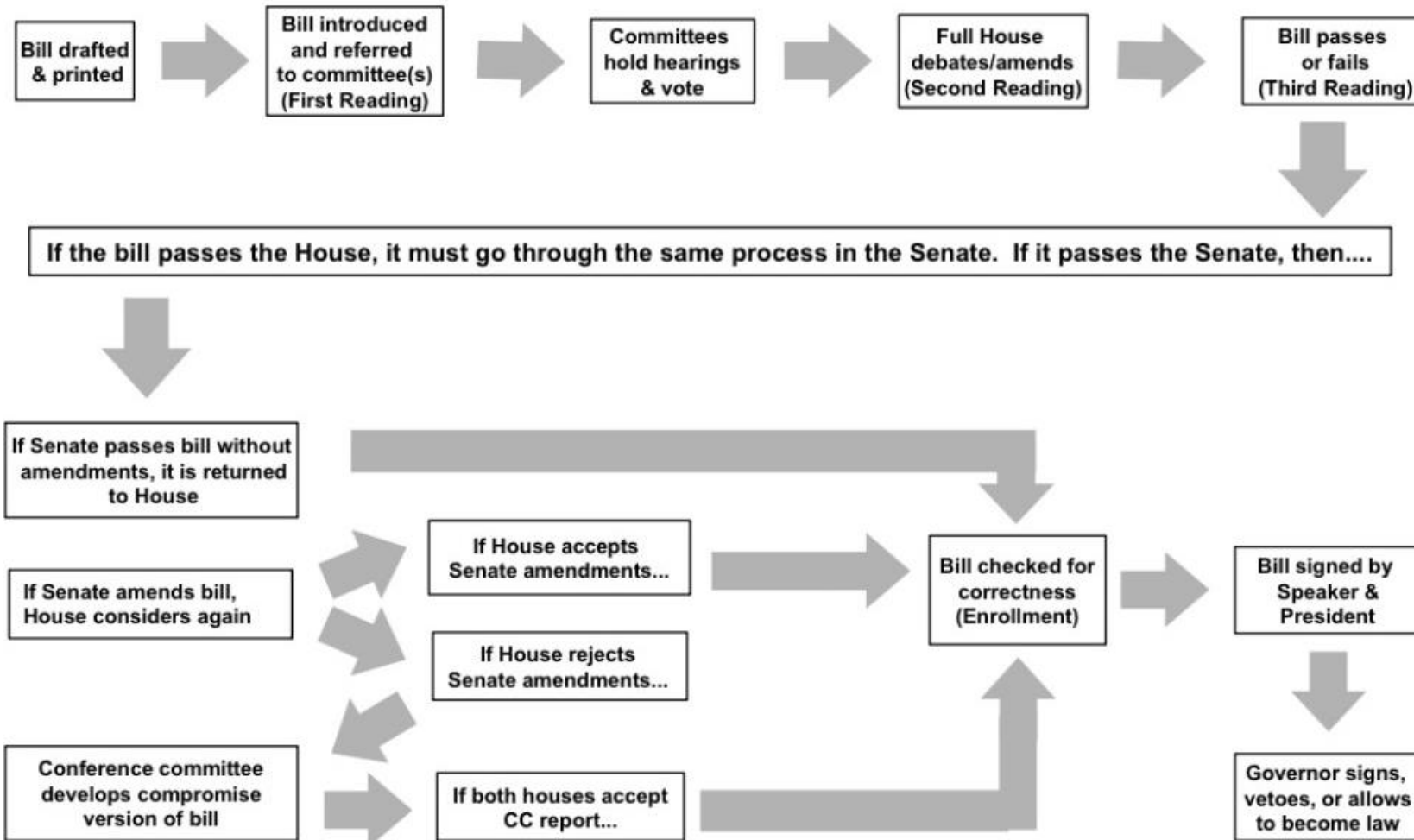
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5 \* Sec. 16. AS 44.06.050, 44.06.055, and 44.06.060 are repealed.  
6 \* Sec. 17. This Act takes effect January 1, 2021.

31st Legislature(2019-2020)

**BILL STATISTICS**

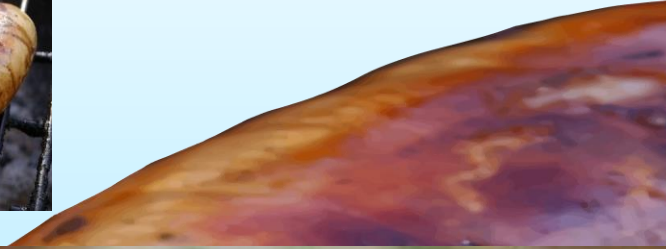
	HOUSE		SENATE		TOTALS	
	INTRO	PASSED BOTH	INTRO	PASSED BOTH	INTRO	PASSED BOTH
Bills	322	61	245	74	567	135
Joint Res.	31	12	20	4	51	16
Concurrent Res.	22	20	16	16	38	36
Resolutions	13	10	2	2	15	12
Special Con. Res.	0	0	0	0	0	0

## STEPS IN THE PASSAGE OF A HOUSE BILL\*



\*This chart shows the progress of a bill originating in the House of Representatives. For a Senate bill, the process would begin on the Senate side. See "Legislative Process in Alaska" for more information.





It's like  
sausage



# For more information

Basis - <http://akleg.gov/index.php>

Alaska constitution:

<https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution>

Alaska Statutes -- <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp>

Uniform Rules of Alaska Legislature -- [http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/uniform\\_rules.pdf](http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/uniform_rules.pdf)

Drafting manual -- <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/DraftingManual2019.pdf>

Bill tracking -- [https://www.akleg.gov/basis/btmf\\_login.asp](https://www.akleg.gov/basis/btmf_login.asp)

Questions???

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