

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Minority Leader



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Representative Ethan Berkowitz  
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**HB 463**

**“An Act relating to a poll of legislators on the question of calling a special session”**

**Sponsor Statement**

HB 463 is about good government and making sure that legislative actions are transparent to the public we serve.

House Bill 463 clarifies the legislature’s procedures for calling itself into special session. Under current law, “the legislature may call itself into special session if two-thirds of the membership responds in the affirmative to a poll conducted by the presiding officer of each house.” AS 24.05.100(a)(2).

A poll is initiated upon the request of 25 percent of the membership of each house. AS 24.05.100(a)(2). Currently, there is no deadline for initiating and completing this process, so the presiding officers lack definitive guidelines for conducting this poll. HB 463 specifies that the poll shall be initiated within three days of receiving the request from 25 percent of the membership.

The bill also requires that, within three days after the poll is conducted, the presiding officers publicly announce the results of the poll and the vote of each legislator. The vote of each legislator must then be delivered to the Legislative Affairs Agency for inclusion in each legislator’s voting record.