

Rep. Max Gruenberg



Rep. Bryce Edgmon

Rep. Paul Seaton, Chairman  
**HOUSE 90-DAY SESSION EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**The following report is submitted with the unanimous consent of the House 90-Day Session Evaluation Subcommittee.**

**Introduction**

In 2007 the Legislature passed HB 171 requiring Legislative Council to deliver a report to the full Legislature before the start of the 2010 session “considering issues related to the duration of the regular session and making recommendations regarding the amendment or repeal of any statutes or Uniform Rules implementing the 90-day regular session.”

In 2008 Legislative Council created a subcommittee to assist in creating the 90-day session report. This subcommittee consists of three members of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President. House subcommittee members include Representative Seaton, Chair, Representative Edgmon, and Representative Gruenberg. Senate members are Senator Stevens, Senator Huggins, and Senator Wagoner.

House subcommittee members viewed our task as providing Legislative Council with a basis and recommendation for their report. House subcommittee members felt that we needed baseline information on which to base our recommendations. In order to gather this information the House members on the subcommittee submitted a “90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey” to all House members and House interim staff.

Senate members of the subcommittee determined that they would proceed on a different track and did not participate in the survey. This report exclusively discusses the deliberations of the House portion of the subcommittee hereafter referred to as “the subcommittee”. House members will hereafter be referred to as Representatives.

## **Survey**

An on-line survey provider called “SurveyMonkey” was utilized to deliver the survey. SurveyMonkey is the website of choice for entities such as Council of State Governments and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The survey site allows multiple answer surveys to be filtered and downloaded, at a cost of \$19 per month. The subcommittee maintained this website for three months in order to collect as many responses as possible. The survey was e-mailed to all Representatives, and all interim House staff.

In order to achieve a maximum degree of participation among Representatives and House staff, the subcommittee determined that the survey should be delivered on an anonymous basis. However, it did include the option for respondents to provide their name if they wished.

For purposes of delineating staff responses regarding the impact of the 90-day session on moving expenses and other “personal” issues, the subcommittee determined that staff responses should be segregated between House staff residing in Juneau during the interim, and House staff residing elsewhere in Alaska during the interim, as these personal impacts would likely be different for the two groups.

The survey took into account that some Representatives, as well as many staff members may not have worked prior to the imposition of the 90-day session. An answer option was added to applicable comparative questions stating that the respondent was “unsure” as they have not worked during a 120-day session. In order to achieve objectivity the options for answering the “yes or no” questions were alternated so that one answer or the other was not listed first in order of preference. The subcommittee was also careful to give respondents the option to answer “no opinion” on pertinent questions so that they were not forced into picking one answer or the other if they did not have a position.

The survey contained 40 questions, in four general categories:

1. Impacts of the 90-day session on aspects of the personal lives of Representatives and staff such as moving expenses, housing, recreation time, health, etc;
2. Impacts of the 90-day session on the legislative office and constituent relations;
3. Impacts of the 90-day session on public participation and the committee process; and
4. Impacts of the 90-day session on miscellaneous aspects of the legislative process, as well as suggested changes to session structure, and length.

## **Results**

The same survey was given to all Representatives and interim staff. The survey results are presented filtered into three groups: Representatives; House staff; and a combination of both. These surveys are attached as are all additional comments to survey questions.

The surveys presented with this report are largely self-explanatory so this report will not go into great detail discussing the survey results with a few exceptions. In the following narrative the number in parenthesis refers to the question number in the Representative survey. Although the staff survey has some different percentages there was not a difference on the main issues discussed below.

Thirty-one Representatives responded to this survey, as well as 47 non-Juneau House staff, and 23 Juneau-based House staff. Of the 31 Representatives, a large majority expressed displeasure with the 90-day session. Twenty Representatives prefer the session length at 120-days, 4 prefer the session to be set at 90-days, and 4 prefer it to be structured as 45-days, a 30-day break, and then another 45-days.

General trends can be seen by looking at the majority of responses to a number of issues. Sixty percent of responding Representatives answer that the 90-day session had a negative or somewhat negative effect on their health and sleep habits (question 9). Sixty-seven percent say the 90-day session had a negative or somewhat negative impact on their hiring and retention of staff (q.11) while only 3 percent say it had a positive or somewhat positive impact. Communication and interaction with constituents is generally seen as negatively impacted, with 83 percent saying they communicated less well (q.14), 79 percent saying they traveled less to the district (q.15), and 85 percent stating that they consider a 90-day session to be detrimental to their legislative effectiveness. Sixty percent heard a majority of negative comments about the 90-day length from their constituents compared to 7 percent hearing positive comments (q.17). The effect of the 90-day session is generally seen as disadvantageous to constituents, with 93 percent of responding Representatives feeling that they have less time to schedule meetings (q.18), and 97 percent believe there is less public testimony and more time constraints on public testimony (q. 22). Ninety percent also feel there is less than adequate evaluation of their personal legislation (q. 21); with 83 percent believing the 90-day session gives special interest groups more power to kill legislation (q.23), and 76 percent say committee chairs have more power to kill legislation (q.24). Seventy-nine percent say bills were not heard because they might take up too much committee time (q.26) while 87 percent feel there is more pressure to move bills with a single hearing because of the shortened session (q.25).

Representatives generally disagree with the validity of 90-day initiative proponent claims. Ninety-three percent do not think the shorter session cuts down legislative operating costs (q.13). Sixty-six percent do not believe the reduced number of session days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office (q.32), and 83 percent do not see value in comparing the length of sessions to other states (q.31). Eighty-six percent of the responding Representatives feel the 90-day session cedes some of the power of the legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy (q.33).

There is no majority opinion about the public desire for legislators to work longer sessions because of the change in legislators' compensation calculation from long-term per diem to salary (q.34), but 73 percent say the fact that the 90-day session was enacted by an initiative would have no effect on their willingness to change the session length (q.36). Sixty-seven percent of responding Representatives when combining all factors prefer the legislative session to be a 120-day structure.

### **Recommendations**

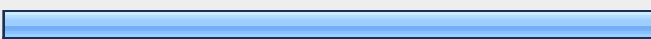
Consistent with the above findings, the House subcommittee recommends that the Legislative Council introduce legislation to return legislative session duration to the constitutional specification of "...no later than one hundred and twenty consecutive calendar days from the date it convenes...."




If Legislative Council chooses to not follow the above recommendation, it should note that the survey polled respondents on three other measures the Legislature might take to improve a 90-day session. These results show that 65 percent of the responding Representatives support decreasing the length of time allowed to the Governor to submit budget amendments from 45 to 30 days. Twenty-two percent support a limit on the number of bills sponsored or co-sponsored, and 13 percent endorse a limit on the number of legislative citations an individual legislator can introduce (q.39). Five separate suggestions for uniform rule changes by individual Representatives are listed in the comment section (q.37).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul A. Seaton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Representative Paul Seaton, House Subcommittee Chair

# 90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey


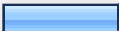



1. I am a			
		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Member of the House</b>		100.0%	31
House Staffer residing outside of Juneau for Interim		0.0%	0
House Staffer residing in Juneau for Interim		0.0%	0
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>31</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

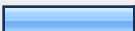
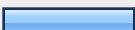


2. I have worked in the Legislature since			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Prior to the 1979 constitutional amendment that established the 120-day session limit.		3.2%	1
<b>Prior to the 2008 change establishing a 90-day session limit.</b>		90.3%	28
The institution of the 90-day limit.		6.5%	2
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>31</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>



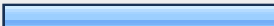

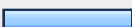

3. Do you hold a job in addition to the working in the Legislature?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		51.6%	16
No		48.4%	15
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>31</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

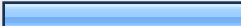





4. Do members of your family join you in Juneau for most or all of the legislative session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		58.1%	18
Yes		41.9%	13
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>31</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>



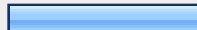
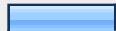
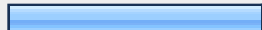

5. The impact of the shorter session on my finances has been			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly negative		10.0%	3
Negative		26.7%	8
Neutral		46.7%	14
Positive		16.7%	5
Strongly positive		0.0%	0
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>30</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>


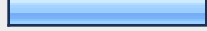
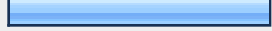

6. How would you describe the impact that session length has on moving household goods, vehicles, pets, etc.?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No impact		37.9%	11
Hardly an impact		17.2%	5
Somewhat of an impact		27.6%	8
A major impact		13.8%	4
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.4%	1
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>29</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>


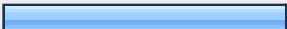
7. Does the shorter session make it more difficult for you to find housing in Juneau			
		Response Percent	Response Count
More difficult		20.0%	6
Marginally more difficult		20.0%	6
Not more difficult		56.7%	17
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.3%	1
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>30</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>



8. How does the shorter session affect your family and dependents?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positively		9.7%	3
Somewhat positively		16.1%	5
<b>Neutrally</b>		<b>41.9%</b>	<b>13</b>
Somewhat negatively		9.7%	3
Negatively		19.4%	6
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.2%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>31</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>




9. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your health and sleep schedule			
		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Negative</b>		<b>36.7%</b>	<b>11</b>
Somewhat Negative		23.3%	7
Neutral		30.0%	9
Somewhat Positive		3.3%	1
Positive		3.3%	1
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.3%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

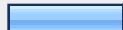
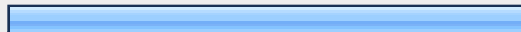

10. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your leisure time			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positive		6.5%	2
Somewhat positive		6.5%	2
Neutral		29.0%	9
Somewhat negative		16.1%	5
<b>Negative</b>		<b>38.7%</b>	<b>12</b>
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.2%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>31</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>


11. How would you say the shorter session impacts the hiring and retention of staff?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positively		3.3%	1
Somewhat positively		0.0%	0
Neutrally		30.0%	9
<b>Somewhat negatively</b>		<b>40.0%</b>	<b>12</b>
Negatively		26.7%	8
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

<b>12. Do you feel that Legal Services responded to your requests in a timely basis during the 90-day session?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes		56.7%	17
No		43.3%	13
<i>answered question</i>			<b>30</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>1</b>

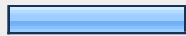
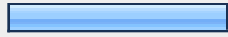
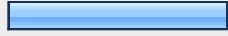

<b>13. Do you believe that going to a 90-day session from a 120-day session cuts down on the Legislature's operating costs by decreasing "paper, copy costs, transportation, etc" over the two-year term of the legislature?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
No		92.9%	26
Yes		7.1%	2
<i>answered question</i>			<b>28</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>3</b>

<b>14. Do you believe that you and your staff are able to communicate with your constituents as well during a 90-day session as you were during a 120-day session?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes		13.3%	4
No		83.3%	25
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>			<b>30</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>1</b>

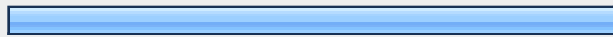

15. Did you travel to your district less during a 90-day session than you did during a 120-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		17.2%	5
Yes		79.3%	23
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		3.4%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>29</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

16. If less, do you consider that detrimental to you or your legislative effectiveness?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		84.6%	22
No		11.5%	3
No effect		3.8%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>26</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>5</b>

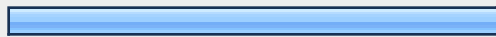

**17. How would you describe the majority of comments you've heard from constituents regarding the 90-day session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		26.7%	8
<b>Somewhat negative</b>		<b>33.3%</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Neutral</b>		<b>33.3%</b>	<b>10</b>
Somewhat positive		6.7%	2
Positive		0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>30</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**18. Do you feel that during a 90-day session session there was less time for you to schedule personal meetings with constituents and members of the public during session?**

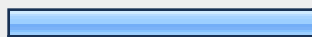
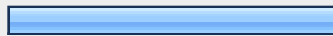

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		93.3%	28
No		6.7%	2
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>30</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**19. A shorter session generates more interim hearings. Do you think that the statewide public receives the notification and information as relates to these interim hearings as adequately as during session?**

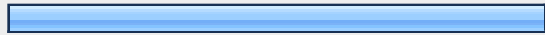


		Response Percent	Response Count
No		75.0%	21
Yes		25.0%	7
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>28</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

20. Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?		
		Response Count
		13
<i>answered question</i>		13
<i>skipped question</i>		18

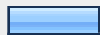
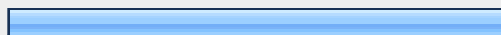

21. Do you believe that the 90-day session allowed your personal legislation to be adequately evaluated by committees of referral?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		90.0%	27
Yes		3.3%	1
No different than 120-day session		6.7%	2
		<i>answered question</i>	30
		<i>skipped question</i>	1

22. What effect do you believe the shorter session has had on the amount of testimony that legislation receives?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Much less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		46.7%	14
Less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		50.0%	15
No effect		3.3%	1
More testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
Much more testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
		<i>answered question</i>	30
		<i>skipped question</i>	1


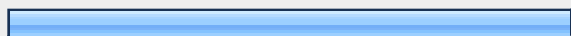

**23. Do you believe that a shortened session gives greater power to special interest groups to kill legislation that they oppose by having it held in committee without a hearing?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		82.8%	24
No		6.9%	2
No opinion		10.3%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>29</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

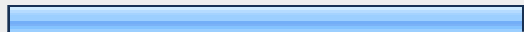


**24. Do you believe that a 90-day session gives committee chairs a greater degree of power to kill legislation?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		13.8%	4
Yes		75.9%	22
No opinion		10.3%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>29</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

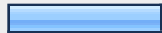


**25. Do you perceive an increase in pressure to move bills from committee with a single hearing because of the reduced session length?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		3.3%	1
Yes		86.7%	26
No opinion		10.0%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

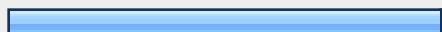
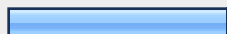
**26. Do you believe that bills that would otherwise be heard by committees were held because there was a perception that they might take up too much of the committee's time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		79.3%	23
No		13.8%	4
No opinion		6.9%	2
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>29</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

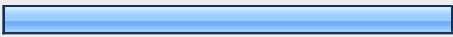


**27. Fewer bills were introduced in the 90-day session than the previous 120-day session. Did the decrease in the number of bills significantly benefit the legislative process?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		23.3%	7
No		46.7%	14
No effect		30.0%	9
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

**28. Has the 90-day session ever prevented you or your office from introducing complicated or controversial legislation because you worried that it might require too much committee time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		66.7%	20
Yes		33.3%	10
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>




**29. Do you believe more or less time is spent discussing resolutions instead of bills due to the shortened session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
More time		69.0%	20
Less time		6.9%	2
No opinion		24.1%	7
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>29</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

**30. Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?**

		Response Count
		6
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>6</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>25</b>

**31. The statement in support of the ballot initiative establishing the 90-day session in 2006 claims that twenty-seven other states have a session shorter than 120-days. Do you see value in comparing the session length in Alaska to that of other states given the issues dealt with by the Alaska State Legislature?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		83.3%	25
Yes		6.7%	2
No opinion		10.0%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>30</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

**32. Do you believe that reducing the time a legislator spends away from family and work from 120 to 90 days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office?**

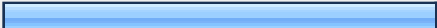



		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		20.7%	6
No		65.5%	19
No opinion		13.8%	4
<i>answered question</i>			<b>29</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>2</b>

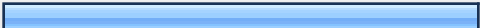
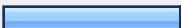
**33. Do you believe that by decreasing the time that the Legislature is convened from 120 days to 90 days this cedes some of the power of the Legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		13.8%	4
Yes		86.2%	25
No opinion		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			<b>29</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>2</b>

**34. Do you think that after the implementation of the pay commission recommendation (to pay Legislators a flat annual salary of \$50,400 while doing away with a per-diem they get for working on state business when the Legislature isn't in session) Alaskans will want their Legislators to work longer sessions?**


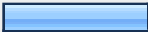

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		33.3%	10
No		36.7%	11
No opinion		30.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>			<b>30</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>1</b>

<b>35. Combining all factors, how would you prefer the legislative session to be structured?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>120 days</b>		<b>66.7%</b>	<b>20</b>
90 days		13.3%	4
90-day session split in two but encompassing no more than 120 days in total (for example 45 days beginning the session, a 30 day break encompassing Energy Council and Easter, followed by a second 45 days)		13.3%	4
Other		6.7%	2
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>30</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>

<b>36. Taking into account the effect of the 90-day session on all aspects of the legislative process, does the fact that the session length was established by the initiative process effect your willingness to change the session length?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>73.3%</b>	<b>22</b>
Yes		26.7%	8
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>30</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>

<b>37. Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?</b>			<b>Response Count</b>
			9
<b><i>answered question</i></b>			<b>9</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>			<b>22</b>

38. If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?		Response Count
		12
	<i>answered question</i>	12
	<i>skipped question</i>	19

39. Mark the appropriate circle: If we stay at 90 days do we need to...			Response Percent	Response Count
Shorten the 45-day window after session convenes for the Governor's budget amendments			65.2%	15
Limit the number of bills sponsored or cosponsored			21.7%	5
Limit below the current 10 the number of Citations a member may introduce			13.0%	3
		<i>answered question</i>		23
		<i>skipped question</i>		8

40. Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.		Response Count
		10
	<i>answered question</i>	10
	<i>skipped question</i>	21


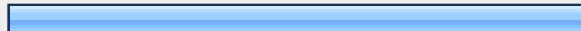
41. If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

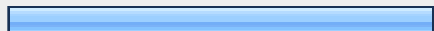
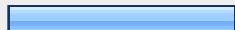
		Response Count
		10
	<i>answered question</i>	10
	<i>skipped question</i>	21


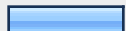
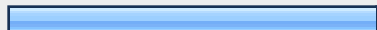
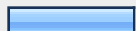

# 90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey

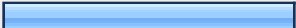
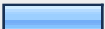
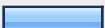


1. I am a			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Member of the House		0.0%	0
<b>House Staffer residing outside of Juneau for Interim</b>		<b>67.1%</b>	<b>47</b>
House Staffer residing in Juneau for Interim		32.9%	23
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>70</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>


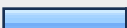
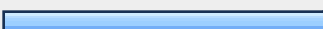

2. I have worked in the Legislature since			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Prior to the 1979 constitutional amendment that established the 120-day session limit.		5.7%	4
<b>Prior to the 2008 change establishing a 90-day session limit.</b>		<b>70.0%</b>	<b>49</b>
The institution of the 90-day limit.		24.3%	17
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>70</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

3. Do you hold a job in addition to the working in the Legislature?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		11.6%	8
No		88.4%	61
		<i>answered question</i>	69
		<i>skipped question</i>	1

4. Do members of your family join you in Juneau for most or all of the legislative session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		65.2%	43
Yes		34.8%	23
		<i>answered question</i>	66
		<i>skipped question</i>	4



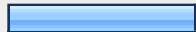
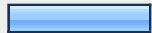

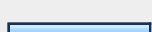
5. The impact of the shorter session on my finances has been			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly negative		2.9%	2
Negative		17.4%	12
Neutral		56.5%	39
Positive		18.8%	13
Strongly positive		4.3%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	69
		<i>skipped question</i>	1



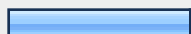
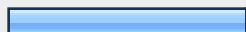
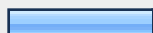
6. How would you describe the impact that session length has on moving household goods, vehicles, pets, etc.?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No impact		44.8%	30
Hardly an impact		14.9%	10
Somewhat of an impact		14.9%	10
A major impact		7.5%	5
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		17.9%	12
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>67</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

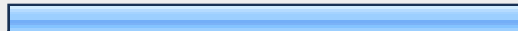
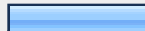
7. Does the shorter session make it more difficult for you to find housing in Juneau			
		Response Percent	Response Count
More difficult		7.7%	5
Marginally more difficult		18.5%	12
Not more difficult		49.2%	32
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		24.6%	16
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>65</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>5</b>

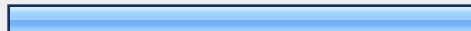
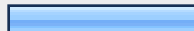
8. How does the shorter session affect your family and dependents?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positively		20.3%	14
Somewhat positively		14.5%	10
<b>Neutrally</b>		<b>37.7%</b>	<b>26</b>
Somewhat negatively		2.9%	2
Negatively		4.3%	3
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		20.3%	14
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>69</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>

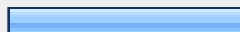

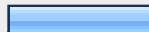
9. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your health and sleep schedule			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		11.4%	8
Somewhat Negative		21.4%	15
<b>Neutral</b>		<b>34.3%</b>	<b>24</b>
Somewhat Positive		5.7%	4
Positive		5.7%	4
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		21.4%	15
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>70</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

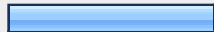
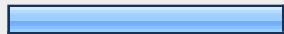
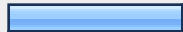
10. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your leisure time			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positive		10.0%	7
Somewhat positive		7.1%	5
<b>Neutral</b>		<b>28.6%</b>	<b>20</b>
Somewhat negative		21.4%	15
Negative		11.4%	8
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		21.4%	15
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>70</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>0</b>

11. How would you say the shorter session impacts the hiring and retention of staff?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Positively		4.3%	3
Somewhat positively		10.1%	7
Neutrally		27.5%	19
<b>Somewhat negatively</b>		<b>36.2%</b>	<b>25</b>
Negatively		21.7%	15
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>69</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>

12. Do you feel that Legal Services responded to your requests in a timely basis during the 90-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		79.1%	53
No		20.9%	14
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>67</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>






13. Do you believe that going to a 90-day session from a 120-day session cuts down on the Legislature's operating costs by decreasing "paper, copy costs, transportation, etc" over the two-year term of the legislature?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		71.6%	48
Yes		28.4%	19
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>67</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

14. Do you believe that you and your staff are able to communicate with your constituents as well during a 90-day session as you were during a 120-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		35.7%	25
No		42.9%	30
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		21.4%	15
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>70</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

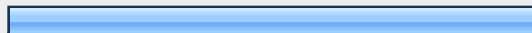
15. Did you travel to your district less during a 90-day session than you did during a 120-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		31.3%	20
Yes		42.2%	27
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		26.6%	17
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>64</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>6</b>

16. If less, do you consider that detrimental to you or your legislative effectiveness?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		28.8%	15
No		13.5%	7
No effect		57.7%	30
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>52</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>18</b>

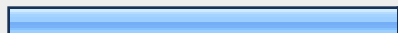
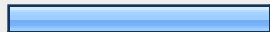
**17. How would you describe the majority of comments you've heard from constituents regarding the 90-day session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		12.9%	9
<b>Somewhat negative</b>		<b>35.7%</b>	<b>25</b>
Neutral		27.1%	19
Somewhat positive		17.1%	12
Positive		7.1%	5
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>70</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**18. Do you feel that during a 90-day session session there was less time for you to schedule personal meetings with constituents and members of the public during session?**

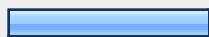
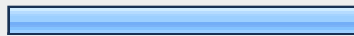
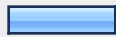
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		<b>80.9%</b>	<b>55</b>
No		19.1%	13
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>68</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**19. A shorter session generates more interim hearings. Do you think that the statewide public receives the notification and information as relates to these interim hearings as adequately as during session?**

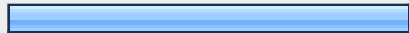

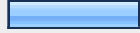
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		<b>60.0%</b>	<b>39</b>
Yes		40.0%	26
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>65</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

20. Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?		
		Response Count
		22
<i>answered question</i>		22
<i>skipped question</i>		48


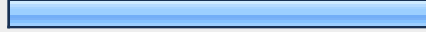
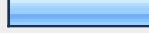
21. Do you believe that the 90-day session allowed your personal legislation to be adequately evaluated by committees of referral?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		72.6%	45
Yes		16.1%	10
No different than 120-day session		11.3%	7
<i>answered question</i>			62
<i>skipped question</i>			8

22. What effect do you believe the shorter session has had on the amount of testimony that legislation receives?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Much less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		30.6%	19
Less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		53.2%	33
No effect		16.1%	10
More testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
Much more testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			62
<i>skipped question</i>			8


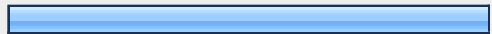

**23. Do you believe that a shortened session gives greater power to special interest groups to kill legislation that they oppose by having it held in committee without a hearing?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		61.5%	40
No		18.5%	12
No opinion		20.0%	13
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>65</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>5</b>

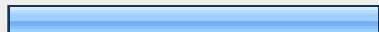


**24. Do you believe that a 90-day session gives committee chairs a greater degree of power to kill legislation?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		13.8%	9
Yes		64.6%	42
No opinion		21.5%	14
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>65</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>5</b>

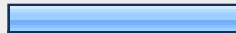


**25. Do you perceive an increase in pressure to move bills from committee with a single hearing because of the reduced session length?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		12.3%	8
Yes		73.8%	48
No opinion		13.8%	9
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>65</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>5</b>

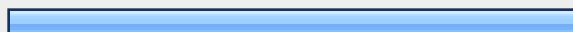

**26. Do you believe that bills that would otherwise be heard by committees were held because there was a perception that they might take up too much of the committee's time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		56.9%	37
No		23.1%	15
No opinion		20.0%	13
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>65</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>5</b>

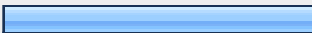


**27. Fewer bills were introduced in the 90-day session than the previous 120-day session. Did the decrease in the number of bills significantly benefit the legislative process?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		34.9%	22
No		39.7%	25
No effect		25.4%	16
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>63</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>7</b>

**28. Has the 90-day session ever prevented you or your office from introducing complicated or controversial legislation because you worried that it might require too much committee time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		87.1%	54
Yes		12.9%	8
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>62</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>8</b>

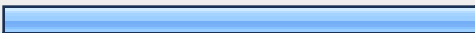


**29. Do you believe more or less time is spent discussing resolutions instead of bills due to the shortened session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
More time		47.5%	29
Less time		4.9%	3
No opinion		47.5%	29
		<i>answered question</i>	61
		<i>skipped question</i>	9

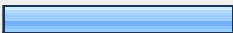


**30. Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?**

		Response Count
		10
		<i>answered question</i>
		10
		<i>skipped question</i>
		60

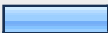


**31. The statement in support of the ballot initiative establishing the 90-day session in 2006 claims that twenty-seven other states have a session shorter than 120-days. Do you see value in comparing the session length in Alaska to that of other states given the issues dealt with by the Alaska State Legislature?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		72.6%	45
Yes		16.1%	10
No opinion		11.3%	7
		<i>answered question</i>	62
		<i>skipped question</i>	8


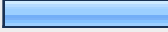
**32. Do you believe that reducing the time a legislator spends away from family and work from 120 to 90 days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office?**

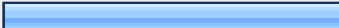
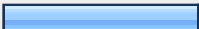
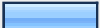

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		34.9%	22
No		47.6%	30
No opinion		17.5%	11
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>63</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>7</b>

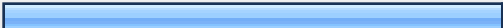
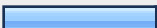
**33. Do you believe that by decreasing the time that the Legislature is convened from 120 days to 90 days this cedes some of the power of the Legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		15.9%	10
Yes		66.7%	42
No opinion		17.5%	11
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>63</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>7</b>

**34. Do you think that after the implementation of the pay commission recommendation (to pay Legislators a flat annual salary of \$50,400 while doing away with a per-diem they get for working on state business when the Legislature isn't in session) Alaskans will want their Legislators to work longer sessions?**


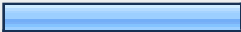

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		32.8%	21
No		42.2%	27
No opinion		25.0%	16
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>64</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>6</b>

<b>35. Combining all factors, how would you prefer the legislative session to be structured?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>120 days</b>		<b>51.6%</b>	<b>33</b>
90 days		29.7%	19
90-day session split in two but encompassing no more than 120 days in total (for example 45 days beginning the session, a 30 day break encompassing Energy Council and Easter, followed by a second 45 days)		14.1%	9
Other		4.7%	3
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>64</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>6</b>

<b>36. Taking into account the effect of the 90-day session on all aspects of the legislative process, does the fact that the session length was established by the initiative process effect your willingness to change the session length?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>77.0%</b>	<b>47</b>
Yes		23.0%	14
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>61</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>9</b>

<b>37. Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?</b>			<b>Response Count</b>
			12
<b><i>answered question</i></b>			<b>12</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>			<b>58</b>

38. If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?		
		Response Count
		11
<i>answered question</i>		11
<i>skipped question</i>		59

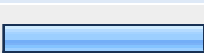
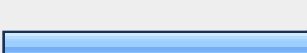
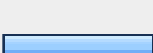
39. Mark the appropriate circle: If we stay at 90 days do we need to...			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Shorten the 45-day window after session convenes for the Governor's budget amendments		50.0%	26
Limit the number of bills sponsored or cosponsored		36.5%	19
Limit below the current 10 the number of Citations a member may introduce		13.5%	7
<i>answered question</i>			52
<i>skipped question</i>			18


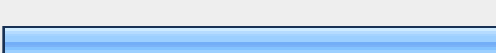
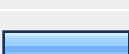
40. Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.		
		Response Count
		17
<i>answered question</i>		17
<i>skipped question</i>		53

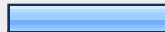
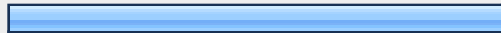
41. If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

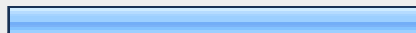
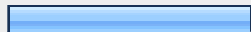
		Response Count
		11
	<i>answered question</i>	11
	<i>skipped question</i>	59


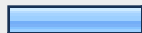
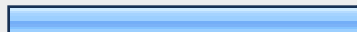


# 90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey

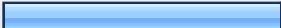
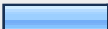
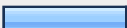


1. I am a			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Member of the House		30.7%	31
<b>House Staffer residing outside of Juneau for Interim</b>		<b>46.5%</b>	<b>47</b>
House Staffer residing in Juneau for Interim		22.8%	23
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>101</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>


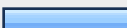
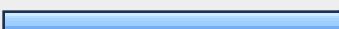

2. I have worked in the Legislature since			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Prior to the 1979 constitutional amendment that established the 120-day session limit.		5.0%	5
<b>Prior to the 2008 change establishing a 90-day session limit.</b>		<b>76.2%</b>	<b>77</b>
The institution of the 90-day limit.		18.8%	19
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>101</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

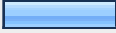

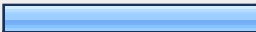


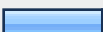
3. Do you hold a job in addition to the working in the Legislature?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		24.0%	24
No		76.0%	76
		<i>answered question</i>	100
		<i>skipped question</i>	3


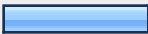
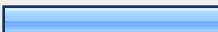


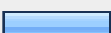
4. Do members of your family join you in Juneau for most or all of the legislative session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		62.9%	61
Yes		37.1%	36
		<i>answered question</i>	97
		<i>skipped question</i>	6



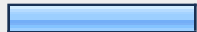
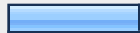
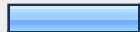
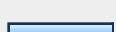
5. The impact of the shorter session on my finances has been			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly negative		5.1%	5
Negative		20.2%	20
Neutral		53.5%	53
Positive		18.2%	18
Strongly positive		3.0%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	99
		<i>skipped question</i>	4



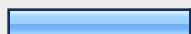
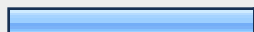
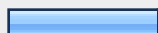
6. How would you describe the impact that session length has on moving household goods, vehicles, pets, etc.?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No impact		42.7%	41
Hardly an impact		15.6%	15
Somewhat of an impact		18.8%	18
A major impact		9.4%	9
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		13.5%	13
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>96</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>7</b>


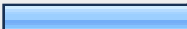
7. Does the shorter session make it more difficult for you to find housing in Juneau			
		Response Percent	Response Count
More difficult		11.6%	11
Marginally more difficult		18.9%	18
Not more difficult		51.6%	49
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		17.9%	17
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>95</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>8</b>


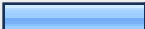
8. How does the shorter session affect your family and dependents?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Positively		17.0%	17	
Somewhat positively		15.0%	15	
<b>Neutrally</b>		<b>39.0%</b>	<b>39</b>	
Somewhat negatively		5.0%	5	
Negatively		9.0%	9	
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		15.0%	15	
			<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>100</b>
			<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>3</b>



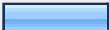
9. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your health and sleep schedule				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		19.0%	19	
Somewhat Negative		22.0%	22	
<b>Neutral</b>		<b>33.0%</b>	<b>33</b>	
Somewhat Positive		5.0%	5	
Positive		5.0%	5	
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		16.0%	16	
			<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>100</b>
			<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>3</b>

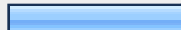
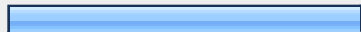

10. How would you describe the shorter session's effect on your leisure time				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Positive			8.9%	9
Somewhat positive			6.9%	7
<b>Neutral</b>			<b>28.7%</b>	<b>29</b>
Somewhat negative			19.8%	20
Negative			19.8%	20
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session			15.8%	16
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>101</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

11. How would you say the shorter session impacts the hiring and retention of staff?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Positively			4.0%	4
Somewhat positively			7.9%	8
Neutrally			27.7%	28
<b>Somewhat negatively</b>			<b>37.6%</b>	<b>38</b>
Negatively			22.8%	23
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>101</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>12. Do you feel that Legal Services responded to your requests in a timely basis during the 90-day session?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Yes</b>		<b>71.7%</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>28.3%</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>99</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

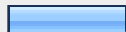




<b>13. Do you believe that going to a 90-day session from a 120-day session cuts down on the Legislature's operating costs by decreasing "paper, copy costs, transportation, etc" over the two-year term of the legislature?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>78.4%</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Yes</b>		<b>21.6%</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>97</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>6</b>

<b>14. Do you believe that you and your staff are able to communicate with your constituents as well during a 90-day session as you were during a 120-day session?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Yes</b>		<b>28.7%</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>55.4%</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session</b>		<b>15.8%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>101</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>2</b>

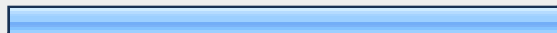
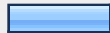
15. Did you travel to your district less during a 90-day session than you did during a 120-day session?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		26.6%	25
Yes		54.3%	51
Cannot compare as I have not worked during a 120-day session		19.1%	18
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>94</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>9</b>

16. If less, do you consider that detrimental to you or your legislative effectiveness?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		48.1%	38
No		12.7%	10
No effect		39.2%	31
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>79</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>24</b>

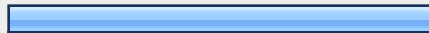

**17. How would you describe the majority of comments you've heard from constituents regarding the 90-day session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Negative		17.8%	18
<b>Somewhat negative</b>		<b>34.7%</b>	<b>35</b>
Neutral		28.7%	29
Somewhat positive		13.9%	14
Positive		5.0%	5
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>101</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**18. Do you feel that during a 90-day session session there was less time for you to schedule personal meetings with constituents and members of the public during session?**

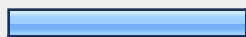
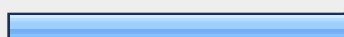

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		84.8%	84
No		15.2%	15
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>99</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>4</b>

**19. A shorter session generates more interim hearings. Do you think that the statewide public receives the notification and information as relates to these interim hearings as adequately as during session?**



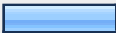
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		64.9%	61
Yes		35.1%	33
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>94</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>9</b>

20. Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?		
		Response Count
		36
<i>answered question</i>		36
<i>skipped question</i>		67




21. Do you believe that the 90-day session allowed your personal legislation to be adequately evaluated by committees of referral?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		78.5%	73
Yes		11.8%	11
No different than 120-day session		9.7%	9
<i>answered question</i>			93
<i>skipped question</i>			10

22. What effect do you believe the shorter session has had on the amount of testimony that legislation receives?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Much less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		36.6%	34
Less testimony/more time constraints upon testimony		51.6%	48
No effect		11.8%	11
More testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
Much more testimony/less time constraints upon testimony		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			93
<i>skipped question</i>			10


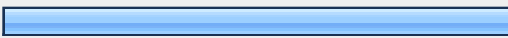

**23. Do you believe that a shortened session gives greater power to special interest groups to kill legislation that they oppose by having it held in committee without a hearing?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.4%	65
No		14.7%	14
No opinion		16.8%	16
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>95</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>8</b>

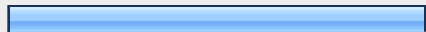


**24. Do you believe that a 90-day session gives committee chairs a greater degree of power to kill legislation?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		13.7%	13
Yes		68.4%	65
No opinion		17.9%	17
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>95</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>8</b>

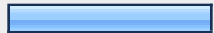


**25. Do you perceive an increase in pressure to move bills from committee with a single hearing because of the reduced session length?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		9.4%	9
Yes		78.1%	75
No opinion		12.5%	12
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>96</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>7</b>

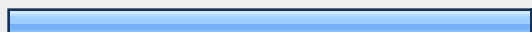
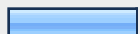
**26. Do you believe that bills that would otherwise be heard by committees were held because there was a perception that they might take up too much of the committee's time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.2%	61
No		20.0%	19
No opinion		15.8%	15
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>95</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>8</b>

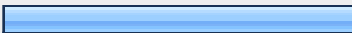


**27. Fewer bills were introduced in the 90-day session than the previous 120-day session. Did the decrease in the number of bills significantly benefit the legislative process?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		30.9%	29
No		41.5%	39
No effect		27.7%	26
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>94</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>9</b>

**28. Has the 90-day session ever prevented you or your office from introducing complicated or controversial legislation because you worried that it might require too much committee time?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		80.6%	75
Yes		19.4%	18
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>93</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>10</b>

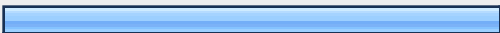


**29. Do you believe more or less time is spent discussing resolutions instead of bills due to the shortened session?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
More time		53.8%	49
Less time		6.6%	6
No opinion		39.6%	36
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>91</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>12</b>

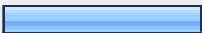


**30. Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?**

		Response Count
		16
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>16</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>87</b>

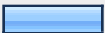


**31. The statement in support of the ballot initiative establishing the 90-day session in 2006 claims that twenty-seven other states have a session shorter than 120-days. Do you see value in comparing the session length in Alaska to that of other states given the issues dealt with by the Alaska State Legislature?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		76.3%	71
Yes		12.9%	12
No opinion		10.8%	10
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>93</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>10</b>

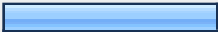
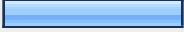
**32. Do you believe that reducing the time a legislator spends away from family and work from 120 to 90 days leads to a greater number of people willing to run for office?**

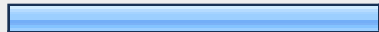
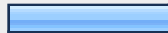


		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		30.1%	28
No		53.8%	50
No opinion		16.1%	15
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>93</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>10</b>



**33. Do you believe that by decreasing the time that the Legislature is convened from 120 days to 90 days this cedes some of the power of the Legislature to the Governor or the bureaucracy?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
No		15.1%	14
Yes		72.0%	67
No opinion		12.9%	12
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>93</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>10</b>

**34. Do you think that after the implementation of the pay commission recommendation (to pay Legislators a flat annual salary of \$50,400 while doing away with a per-diem they get for working on state business when the Legislature isn't in session) Alaskans will want their Legislators to work longer sessions?**


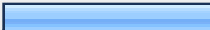

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		32.6%	31
No		40.0%	38
No opinion		27.4%	26
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>95</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>8</b>

<b>35. Combining all factors, how would you prefer the legislative session to be structured?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>120 days</b>		<b>56.8%</b>	<b>54</b>
90 days		24.2%	23
90-day session split in two but encompassing no more than 120 days in total (for example 45 days beginning the session, a 30 day break encompassing Energy Council and Easter, followed by a second 45 days)		13.7%	13
Other		5.3%	5
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>95</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>8</b>

<b>36. Taking into account the effect of the 90-day session on all aspects of the legislative process, does the fact that the session length was established by the initiative process effect your willingness to change the session length?</b>			
		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>No</b>		<b>76.1%</b>	<b>70</b>
Yes		23.9%	22
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>92</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>11</b>

<b>37. Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?</b>		
		<b>Response Count</b>
		21
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>
		<b>21</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>
		<b>82</b>

38. If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?		
		Response Count
		23
<i>answered question</i>		23
<i>skipped question</i>		80

39. Mark the appropriate circle: If we stay at 90 days do we need to...			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Shorten the 45-day window after session convenes for the Governor's budget amendments		54.7%	41
Limit the number of bills sponsored or cosponsored		32.0%	24
Limit below the current 10 the number of Citations a member may introduce		13.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>			75
<i>skipped question</i>			28

40. Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.		
		Response Count
		27
<i>answered question</i>		27
<i>skipped question</i>		76

41. If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

		Response Count
		22
	<i>answered question</i>	22
	<i>skipped question</i>	81

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?	
	<b>Response Count</b>
	13
<i>answered question</i>	<b>13</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>18</b>

Response Text		
1	I think shortening the session shifts power from legislators to the bureaucracy, which is not a happy development.	Jul 8, 2009 12:55 AM
2	The shorter session caused special sessions, where as we could have done the business in a longer session.	Jul 8, 2009 6:19 PM
3	19. More a AK Summer Culture factor than notification/information — Interim hearings discriminate against Alaskan's who have other priorities.	Jul 8, 2009 6:34 PM
4	Question 19 - I'm not sure the it has generated more interim hearings. To do the job right it should require more than I have seen posted.	Jul 10, 2009 10:50 PM
5	90 days was a bad idea from constituents, made little to no effect on me since I work 365.	Jul 12, 2009 10:45 PM
6	i don't have as much time to have personal meetings with other legislators. that is needed for bills and end of session plans.	Jul 25, 2009 6:45 AM
7	There was just very little 'catch-up time' which led to a nervous tension among members.	Jul 30, 2009 10:32 PM
8	Many of my committees scheduled extra weekly meetings this year to try to hear enough bills in the 90 day limit, leaving me basically no time for constituent meetings or office prep time, and forcing me to do all committee prep work at night and on weekends.	Jul 30, 2009 11:41 PM
9	Thanks for putting this together Paul...sjk	Jul 30, 2009 11:58 PM
10	Bills typically don't receive as much attention as before. Most things are too rushed. Not enough staff time. Difficulty scheduling conferences with office visitors. Not enough time to routinely phone constituents on a daily basis as before. Should return to 120 day session.	Jul 31, 2009 2:20 AM
11	The legislature has consistently had a difficult time having adequate input on legislation and policy making. The 90 day session greatly increases that shortcoming. Adequate time to brief constituents for information relating to all subjects dealt with during the session is very much reduced. Oversight of departmental functions, necessary meetings with State staff and officials is made more difficult since not only are their fewer days, but many more live in Anchorage, and the travel alone makes many difficult to contact. With increasing complexity in legislative issues, and potential need for indepth study of departmental process, a shortened time nets poorer quality of necessary information.	Aug 18, 2009 3:02 AM
12	Love the 90 day session	Aug 19, 2009 2:45 PM
13	Because most of the decisions affecting the lives of Alaskans happen during session, a shorter session removes power from the legislative branch and puts more power into the executive branch. Constituents have less time to comment and committees are rushed. More interim hearings would help, although staff is reduced during this period.	Aug 25, 2009 6:23 PM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?		Response Count
		6
	<i>answered question</i>	6
	<i>skipped question</i>	25

Response Text		
1	These are thoughtful questions, thanks. I think the process and the public are very negatively impacted by the 90 days, and many bills got short shrift because of it.	Jul 8, 2009 1:44 AM
2	23-24 -- Shorter session should not by itself effect power to kill bills... Both sides --killer and advocates have balancing advantages from shorter session.	Jul 8, 2009 6:41 PM
3	no	Jul 12, 2009 10:46 PM
4	Would like to give some answers as "don't know" or "undecided"	Jul 30, 2009 11:46 PM
5	Don't know what the chairman's reason for holding bills or speeds them up.	Aug 18, 2009 12:24 AM
6	In the Health and Social Services committee the decreased productivity in the 90 day session was very evident.	Aug 18, 2009 3:04 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?		Response Count
		9
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	22

Response Text		
1	No.	Jul 8, 2009 6:05 PM
2	Eliminate special from being called by all.	Jul 8, 2009 6:23 PM
3	We could allow committee meetings in the interim to move legislation through committee ....	Jul 10, 2009 8:22 AM
4	No	Jul 10, 2009 10:50 PM
5	no	Jul 12, 2009 10:49 PM
6	limit the # of bills try to do a biannual budget perhaps a long session and a short session	Jul 25, 2009 6:52 AM
7	Limit the number of prime sponsorships to XX? Unlimited committee bills.	Jul 31, 2009 12:03 AM
8	no	Aug 17, 2009 8:28 PM
9	Electronic boards should remain dark until all votes are locked and then showed at the same time.	Aug 18, 2009 12:34 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

<p><b>If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?</b></p>	
	<b>Response Count</b>
	12
<i>answered question</i>	<b>12</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>19</b>

Response Text		
1	Continue more interim hearings and particularly, in rural locations.	Jul 8, 2009 6:05 PM
2	no	Jul 8, 2009 6:23 PM
3	We could try to use technology in a different way then we currently do to allow conversations via the web "town hall meeting" style.	Jul 10, 2009 8:22 AM
4	Bi-annual budget. Budget one year, bills the next!	Jul 10, 2009 10:50 PM
5	interim committees can take public testimony until closed.	Jul 12, 2009 10:49 PM
6	??????	Jul 25, 2009 6:52 AM
7	Have more interim hearings around the state.	Jul 29, 2009 1:12 AM
8	Bills should generally have two hearings so constituents at least have an ability to hear of a bill and its implications so they can prepare testimony and contact other interested persons before the bill moves from committee. The attitude that seemed to prevail was that time was short so committees did not to 'delay' a bill by 'holding' it for a second consideration, but this restricted thoughtful public input.	Jul 30, 2009 10:53 PM
9	I think we'd need more committee meetings outside of session.	Jul 30, 2009 11:47 PM
10	More Anchorage area Committee meetings	Aug 17, 2009 8:28 PM
11	Work longer days and weekends	Aug 18, 2009 12:34 AM
12	There is every reason that there need to be committee meetings and work to increase the time and ease of hearing from constituents. Several committees have traveled to other communities throughout the state. That is very appropriate, and would be beneficial for all committees.	Aug 18, 2009 3:12 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

<p>Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.</p>	
	<b>Response Count</b>
	10
<i>answered question</i>	10
<i>skipped question</i>	21

Response Text		
1	<p>I believe the public believes that there is a cost savings to a 90-day session vs 120-day session. The actual \$\$ cost may be true, it would be interesting to see what those actual numbers are and to share that information with the public.</p> <p>When calculating a comparison \$\$ please be sure to include the costs of the special sessions.</p> <p>My staff worked from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and a shorter work day on Saturday. I am certain that other state offices worked even longer hours to keep up with the new volume of information requests.</p> <p>As a committee member I watched public testimony point out potential legal complications with legislation that was moved from committee for the next committee to "fix" so that individual legislation would not be held (giving it an opportunity to make it partially through the process to become law).</p> <p>Committee Chairs are forced to prioritize bills in an effort to manage the committees time (their job), legislators may serve on multiple committees and need to exit one committee when others are beginning creating the loss of a quorum at times in a committee that is trying to take additional public testimony. It is difficult in a shorter session to find additional time to meet after the regularly scheduled committee meetings. Committees are competing for a committee meeting location, times that do not conflict with other regularly scheduled meetings, public meeting notification requirements and quorums.</p> <p>Our legislative legal department could not keep up with the demands to change legislation (CS) (amend nor write new drafts); personally I waited weeks for one piece to emerge because it was not pre-filed and legislation moving in committees were a priority work order versus my new request. Legislative legal did a good job, but, they did not have enough time to research and provide the same information and exchange they did during a 120 day session.</p> <p>I am in favor of limiting the amount of legislation one legislator can introduce; of course there should be an "exception" procedure to provide for emergencies.</p> <p>In the first year of a 90 day session newly elected legislators may require additional training in protocol and processes to access information at the state, committees are started from the ground up stressing the 90-day session further.</p>	Jul 10, 2009 8:22 AM
2	<p>I think 90 days work. It might mean more committee work during the interim. Do budget one year and bills the next.</p>	Jul 10, 2009 10:50 PM
3	<p>no</p>	Jul 12, 2009 10:49 PM

Response Text		
4	all of them in # 39	Jul 25, 2009 6:52 AM
5	32-we haven't had an election after actually having a 90 day session, yet.	Jul 29, 2009 1:12 AM
6	Citations don't take up committee or much floor time, so I see no need to further limit those. Resolutions, on the other hand, maybe should be limited. Having the budget amendments come in after most House finance subcommittees have closed down is problematic.	Jul 30, 2009 11:46 PM
7	We can have a 120 day session by constitution. If leadership thinks that we may not be done in time, we just need to repeal the law. It should be up to legislative leadership to decide how long we need to do the work of the people instead of confining ourselves with a 90 day schedule-just to come back in special sessions.	Jul 31, 2009 12:03 AM
8	The point is our responsibility to maintain legislative power because we are most accessible to Alaskans.	Aug 17, 2009 8:28 PM
9	All bills should be heard in committee and either passed along or voted down.	Aug 18, 2009 12:34 AM
10	The shortened session is personally preferable to me. The shortened session appears to harm the total legislative process.	Aug 18, 2009 3:12 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

	<b>Response Count</b>
	10
<i>answered question</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>21</b>

<b>Response Text</b>		
1	Mike Doogan	Jul 8, 2009 12:57 AM
2	Beth Kerttula	Jul 8, 2009 1:45 AM
3	Alan Austerman	Jul 10, 2009 10:50 PM
4	carl	Jul 12, 2009 10:49 PM
5	Peggy Wilson	Jul 25, 2009 6:52 AM
6	Max Gruenberg	Jul 29, 2009 1:12 AM
7	Rep. Paul Seaton	Jul 30, 2009 10:53 PM
8	Wes Keller	Aug 17, 2009 8:28 PM
9	Rep. Harry Crawford	Aug 18, 2009 12:34 AM
10	Sharon Cissna	Aug 18, 2009 3:12 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have additional comments on the questions posed in this section of the survey?		Response Count
		22
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>48</b>

Response Text		
1	My wife runs a family business in Juneau. We are significantly impacted by a sudden "dead" month between the end of session and the beginning of tourist season. I believe that in the long term there will be more special sessions, with added costs as well as impacts on members' personal lives and the difficulty of summer lodging in Juneau.	Jul 8, 2009 12:41 AM
2	More time means more committee work which could mean better bills!	Jul 8, 2009 12:57 AM
3	If Rules didn't extend the session pay to 100 days most of the session only staff would not get step credit.  As far as public knowledge of interim meetings, when session is over the public doesn't pay attention to meeting notice sources like BASIS and the LIO's. Also so many people work in seasonal jobs, they have the time to watch the legislature from Jan to May but when summer gets here they are working long hours and long weeks.	Jul 8, 2009 1:07 AM
4	Access to the legislator towards the last 20 days of session had to be limited on a case by case basis.	Jul 8, 2009 3:49 PM
5	Since there have only been 2 90 day sessions, it may be a little early to determine whether the 120 or the 90 session saves money, time or short changes the public process.	Jul 8, 2009 4:17 PM
6	Legislation is too rushed. Timing of the budget was terrible, but this may work itself out over time.	Jul 8, 2009 5:58 PM
7	The 90 day session upsets the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches of the government.	Jul 8, 2009 6:12 PM
8	I believe the 90 day session is terrible for staff. The entire burden of the shorter session falls on staff, not legislators, which I don't think is what the voters intended. Staff works upwards of 10 hours per day at the beginning of session and moves up to 12-14 hour days by the end with zero compensation for the extra effort. The public doesn't realize how little this has effected the work time of the legislators, and how much it has effected the time put in by staff who are doing it for free.	Jul 8, 2009 7:29 PM
9	A few of the first couple questions on the first page don't apply to me since I live in Juneau full time so please don't take those into consideration!	Jul 8, 2009 7:44 PM
10	We needed a question regarding how the 90 day session effects the ability to give bills and the budget the full due diligence of the deliberative process	Jul 8, 2009 7:46 PM

Response Text		
11	I feel that the 90-day session is advantageous to me personally. It makes my personal life easier/better. However, I feel it is clearly detrimental to the legislative process. I have seen bills slide through committee without enough work just because of time constraints. We are making laws for the state of Alaska. We owe it to the citizens of the state to take the time to make the laws properly. In my view, that cannot be done in 90 days.	Jul 8, 2009 7:53 PM
12	Even though I didn't work in a longer session, it's clear that a shorter session means less attention to policy details and constituents.	Jul 8, 2009 9:45 PM
13	I believe we've proved we can make it work over the past two years and that the shorter session has focused the work done in Juneau only to those pieces of necessary legislation. Sometimes less is more - and better work can be accomplished.	Jul 8, 2009 9:46 PM
14	Constituents have less time to comment on legislation. Also, interim hearings are a nice idea, but often they never happen -- it's harder to get legislators together during interim.	Jul 9, 2009 11:05 PM
15	The cost of special session should factor in to the overall cost of the 90 days session compared to 120 session.	Jul 31, 2009 12:35 AM
16	I started working for the legislature in 1980, but I said "yes" to the question re: working prior to the 120 day constitutional amendment. This amendment was passed by the voters in 1984.	Jul 31, 2009 4:49 PM
17	in reference to question 13, legislators are still traveling during interim and holding hearings around the state & with more time during the interim there are more opportunities to travel in and out of state for hearings & conferences. there may be decrease in some costs such as paper & copy costs, but increase in other areas. It may be worth comparing all these costs from a 120 day session to a 90 day session if this is a real area of interest for people to know. However, this will need to be done through a number of sessions as each session may generate more costs than others, especially if taken into account the special sessions.	Jul 31, 2009 10:50 PM
18	Note: Voters approved the 121-day, not 120-day, session limit in 1984, not 1979.	Aug 18, 2009 12:21 AM
19	A 90 Day session is more intense, and thus does not provide as much opportunity for public participation. However, I believe it can be constructive and positive if two things happen: 1) legislators introduce fewer bills; and 2) more work is done by committees during the interim. There is a "culture" from the 120-day sessions regarding the number of bills a legislator thinks they can introduce...and those days are now gone. Members need to prioritize what they introduce, and leadership needs to prioritize what we deal with. No more trivial bills to appease a couple of constituents, please. There needs to be a year-round schedule established for committees.	Aug 18, 2009 12:22 AM
20	There is ZERO time to get things done, and that precious lost time will cost more in the long run...	Aug 18, 2009 1:01 AM
21	As a staff who has to travel to Juneau for session it is not feasible for me to pack up my family and try to find a place to rent and transfer the kids in and out of schools for the 3 months. My boss is kind enough to hire someone in my position during session but I am out a job in that time.	Aug 18, 2009 5:36 PM
22	special sessions cost more than handling business during the regular session. Housing is harder to find for a 90 day session, and even worse if there is a special session.	Aug 21, 2009 6:07 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have any additional comments regarding the questions posed in this section of the survey?		Response Count
		10
	<i>answered question</i>	10
	<i>skipped question</i>	60

Response Text		
1	<p>I believe the 90 Session causes committees to pass through legislation without the proper scrutiny the bills and the public deserves.</p> <p>There were some major mistakes that had to be corrected because of poor review of a bill.</p> <p>One example was the appropriation for appeals for denial of \$1,200 energy rebate. It had to be amended on the floor.</p> <p>Another was Dahlstrom's medal of honor bill.</p>	Jul 8, 2009 1:11 AM
2	<p>With a normal bills getting four committee referrals, two in the Senate and two in the house, I believe four months made more sense. Four months gives legislation one month to clear each committee with out rushing the process.</p>	Jul 8, 2009 1:27 AM
3	<p>Committees were passing bills on to the next referral without proper vetting. You often heard from the chair or members _ "Let the next committee deal with this." This happened even though the subject matter was clearly under the purview of that specific committee.</p>	Jul 8, 2009 3:53 PM
4	<p>Is there adequate public notification for hearings during shorter session and do more bills get delayed and end up under the 24hour rule?</p>	Jul 8, 2009 6:00 PM
5	<p>the use of resolutions should be limited to one resolution per legislator or committee per session.</p>	Jul 31, 2009 12:07 AM
6	<p>The first committee of referral passes a bill along without the needed research in order to keep the bill moving. The bill arrives in the finance committees without the necessary review by the earlier committees. The finance committees don't have the time or expertise to substantially mark-up the technical nature of the bill so the bill remains in the finance committees, hence a huge bottleneck of bills in the finance committees.</p>	Jul 31, 2009 4:53 PM

**Response Text**

7	<p>with the 90 day session things are more rushed and seems a legislator needs to push fewer bills because of time constraints with all the constituent meetings, floor session and committee meetings. I saw examples of both, depending on the committee, where legislation was moved quickly &amp; often depending on the next committee to do more work on the bill, and then there were times legislation was heard then held after realizing this will take more discussion time and often times not getting back to another hearing since there are other bills to be heard. In my opinion having at least an extra month would allow not only more discussion time but more time for legislators to review &amp; learn about the bills. There are many bills being considered and often times complex bills that need lots of work &amp; understanding by all parties. For question 23, although I have not worked a 120 day session this is merely speculation on my part, but it seems if there is opposition to a bill it is more likely a committee chair will hold the bill since there is less time to work out details &amp; compromises during the hearing - one would hope the details can be worked out of the committee room, but we all know there is a number of questions that come up &amp; people who want to testify, especially on controversial &amp; complex bills. And then there is the reverse reaction when a complex or controversial bill is taken up in committee, days and sometimes weeks are spent on one bill, limiting the number of bills that can be moved through committee. With both scenarios, I find it will be more beneficial for a 120 day session.</p>	Jul 31, 2009 11:04 PM
8	<p>My comments in the last section should have been posted here...didn't know what was coming ahead.</p>	Aug 18, 2009 12:24 AM
9	<p>I feel that the shortened session gives committee chairs an excuse to not hear a lot of personal legislation. However, I don't think this is a bad thing. Most personal legislation is introduced for the sake of introducing legislation so the legislator looks like he/she is working hard.</p>	Aug 18, 2009 3:22 PM
10	<p>90 day sessions shift power to the executive branch. a Governor has an easier ability to call a special session and control the agenda of it. complex legislation has a greater chance of passing with 'unintended consequences'. Shorter sessions concentrates power in the finance committees (less time for other members to get familiar with and understand the budget). When there are new finance co-chairs, less time to come up to speed on the budget means power can shift to the other body and/or executive. when a new governor is elected, they don't have enough time to analyze the budget submission from the previous governor or to submit amendments.</p>	Aug 21, 2009 6:17 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

Do you have suggestions for other Uniform Rule changes in relation to continuing with a 90-day session?	
	<b>Response Count</b>
	12
<b>answered question</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>58</b>

Response Text		
1	Most important change from the orig draft of HB171 was starting sessions in January. We must allow time for sessions to be extended if needed, without getting into late May / tourism. It is bad for Juneau to have legislators sleeping on their couches. I would change the start day from always being a Tuesday. That makes Day 90 always a Sunday, which is a bad choice for the last day of session.	Jul 8, 2009 12:47 AM
2	Tam Cook prepared a memo discussing Uniform Rules and statutory changes to accommodate a 90 day session, but it still doesn't protect the public process.	Jul 8, 2009 1:19 AM
3	A big problem with the 90 day session are the productive days that are missing because of energy council and the Easter holiday. If we don't go back to 120 day session I guess the 90-day split session would work better than what we have now as long as staff continued to be paid during the break.	Jul 8, 2009 1:27 AM
4	I'm not sure about Uniform Rule changes, but statutes need to be written to allow standing and special committees full power and authority to conduct business during the interim.	Jul 8, 2009 4:04 PM
5	120 days for the first Session and 90 days for the second Session.  Limit number of personal bills. Require sunset bills (boards) to be committee bills and not personal bills.  Mr. Speaker, i move the previous question. Shut the minority up when we know the outcome of a bill and everybody just wants to talk. Long floor sessions eat into committee time.	Jul 8, 2009 5:59 PM
6	Perhaps having the Finance committee convene earlier then the start of full session to start work on the operating budget. If there is a 30 day break for energy/easter perhaps keep the Finance committee working.	Jul 8, 2009 7:59 PM
7	allow committees some mechanism to move bills over the interim; limit duplicate bills	Jul 8, 2009 10:26 PM
8	Get committee chairs to set an interim schedule by the end of session, with bills to be heard listed on the schedule. It'll make for cutthroat partisan bargaining at the end of session, but at least legislators and the public will know what to expect during the interim. Give majority and minority offices equal staff and equal pay for both session and prep/wind down time for a few weeks on either side of session; otherwise, offices are hamstrung by accelerated pace and extreme volume of work.	Jul 8, 2009 11:23 PM
9	Have session mid-Feb thru mid-May instead of current timing.	Jul 9, 2009 11:13 PM
10	Limit citations and memoriams to three per legislator per session.	Jul 31, 2009 12:27 AM

**Response Text**

11	The "power of the chair" needs to be reviewed. There appears to be more instances where the chair of a committee fails to listen to the committee members wishes (or other legislators thoughts) and holds a bill in committee unilaterally. The 90-day session seems to give this power new life and should be reviewed.	Jul 31, 2009 5:20 PM
12	1) Cap number of personal bills per legislator 2) Allow committees to adopt CS and move bill during interim somehow 3) Fewer special committees...use subcommittees of standing committees instead	Aug 18, 2009 12:39 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

If we continue with 90-day session do you have suggested ways to effectively involve constituents and testifiers in the shortened session?		Response Count
		11
	<i>answered question</i>	11
	<i>skipped question</i>	59

Response Text		
1	If we had a 2 year budget we could have a 120 day session and a 90 day session, during which we could handle a supplemental.	Jul 8, 2009 12:54 AM
2	Doing two year budgets and have one session with no appropriation bills.	Jul 8, 2009 1:19 AM
3	Limit constituents and testifiers to 2 minutes or less in committee.	Jul 8, 2009 1:27 AM
4	None	Jul 8, 2009 4:04 PM
5	no	Jul 8, 2009 5:59 PM
6	Put stationary cameras in all of the committee rooms so that all of the committee meetings are broadcast.	Jul 8, 2009 6:14 PM
7	it's fine as is, don't change it	Jul 8, 2009 10:26 PM
8	I don't see any way to effectively involve constituents in a shortened 90-day session.	Jul 8, 2009 11:23 PM
9	Longer committee hearings during the first half of session. The departmental overview process should begin immediately upon the convening of a regular session, not a week or two afterward.	Jul 31, 2009 12:27 AM
10	Constituent involvement will continue to be a problem. Unfortunately limiting testimony to 3-minutes isn't the answer. Under the 90-day session, lobbyists power grows. Legislators tend to turn to lobbyists for more answers as they can respond more quickly than individual constituents. Issues without lobbyists often times are ignored and not heard. I wonder if more lobbyists are employed now than before the 90-day initiative passed.	Jul 31, 2009 5:20 PM
11	Its frustrating to have full scale public hearings at every committee that recieves a bill referral...but I don't have a suggestion on how to get around it. Its usually the same people with the same message that show up at every committee along the way...but how do you not provide the opportunity?	Aug 18, 2009 12:39 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

<p>Do you have further comment on any of the items discussed in the survey, or on additional items pertinent to the length of the legislative session? Please write them here.</p>	
	<b>Response Count</b>
	17
<i>answered question</i>	17
<i>skipped question</i>	53

Response Text		
1	Thank you for doing this.	Jul 8, 2009 12:47 AM
2	Most legislators don't use their 10 citations and who should be the judge of how many bills to introduce is too much. The committee chairs do that filtering.	Jul 8, 2009 1:19 AM
3	<p>Overall the public loses with a 90-day session. There simply is not adequate time to properly discuss the full impact bills and resolutions have, thus allowing choices to be made under the gun; so to speak.</p> <p>One alternative is to have biennial budgeting. First session be expanded to 120-days for the purpose of creating a 2-year budget and allowing more time for freshmen legislators to get "up to speed." The second session could be less than 120-days for tweaking the budget and the other legislative business.</p>	Jul 8, 2009 4:04 PM
4	I personally like the 90 day session, but i understand the arguments against it. Maybe committees should mmet in the interim and pass bills and we should hold at least on special session a year at our calling to allow the bills to move to the next committee.	Jul 8, 2009 5:59 PM
5	maybe proposing the first session to remain at 120 so we can organize and get committee assignments...plus when a new governor take office it would give them and us more time to settle in especially with the budget. Then the second session could remain at 90 days, that way it is a nice compromise!	Jul 8, 2009 7:49 PM
6	Due to the limited time window presented in the 90 day session Finance members had to address, Operating, Capitol, Supplemental, budgets at the same time. This limits time to review everything and specifically limits the number of subcommittee meetings that can be held. This is in addition to regular legislative work load. If the 90 session is not changed it is imperative that it's effects on the budget process be mitigated.	Jul 8, 2009 7:59 PM
7	one of the things to look at would be a first session of 120 days to get the process moving, then a 90-day second session.	Jul 8, 2009 10:26 PM
8	A 90-day session absolutely prevents the Legislature from making fair and responsible decisions. I wish that each and every Alaskan voter could see first hand how the 90-day session greatly limits public participation, restricts lawmakers' ability to adequately review proposed legislation, exacerbates partisan politics, empowers lobbyists because they are among the only ones with access to lawmakers, and prevents the Legislature from acting as a true balance of power to the Administration and courts. Further, it is high disruptive to the personal lives of legislators and staff, so the quality of representation will decline as people seek more stable and less stressful opportunities in other sectors.	Jul 8, 2009 11:23 PM

Response Text		
9	While the shorter session is undoubtedly "better" for most legislators and staff, I believe taking that into consideration is contrary to our role as public servants. It is not about making ourselves comfortable or happy, it is about doing the people's work. We have to ask ourselves whether or not the average citizen is adequately able to provide input into the public process and whether or not we are able to address the issues we should be addressing. I've worked with the legislature for ten years and I believe it is incredibly telling that this will most likely be the slimmest SLA book I've ever seen. What are we putting on the shelf in favor of just trying to get the bare minimum of a budget done?	Jul 9, 2009 12:00 AM
10	A one month energy break is a nice idea, but maybe not practical because of housing concerns. Maybe a two-week break would be better.	Jul 9, 2009 11:13 PM
11	professional legislature is the number one way to get more people to participate. \$54k does not do it. Make it professional, 120 day session and more expectations during the interim. I worry about the strengthened power of the exec with 90 day session	Jul 30, 2009 11:05 PM
12	Interim hearings would be more valuable to the public if the committee amended and argued legislation during these hearings instead of just taking testimony.	Jul 31, 2009 12:27 AM
13	I don't believe the three suggestions in number 39 will help. Shortening the window for Gov amendments will not really help. Time is the enemy. The governor needs time and the legislature needs time. The 90-day session heightens the importance of the LB&A Cmte. The financial picture changes the added 30 days without the legislature in session makes a difference on the monetary issues. Communication between the legislature and the executive branch is key to the success of a 90-day session. A commitment of the legislative leadership to include ALL legislators in the major decision is key to a productive session. How to ensure that open communication occurs and consensus building governs the legislature is the million dollar question. Good luck . . . .  Thank you for asking my opinion.	Jul 31, 2009 5:20 PM
14	in response to question 31, I think we need to evaluate what is best for Alaska and base our session length on what other states are doing because each state has different needs.	Jul 31, 2009 11:05 PM
15	I am a staffer who has only worked during a 90-day session. However, I believe that I would be less likely to retain this job if I were required to be in Juneau for 120+ days rather than 90+ days. It is too long to be separated from family and community.  However, I'm sure there are plenty of qualified people who could balance the job and the time away from family, as has occurred in the past. Perhaps the idea of a split 90 session is a good one.	Aug 3, 2009 5:07 PM
16	We are still stuck with a 120-Day mindset around here...in terms of the number of bills and pace of committees. In time, we might adjust without a lot of changes -- but there are some changes that can help (as explained previously).	Aug 18, 2009 12:39 AM
17	In what way has the 90 day session been a benefit to the public? if the legislature wants to hold hearings around the state during the interim, it can do so after a 120 session also.	Aug 21, 2009 6:28 AM

**90-day Legislative Session Evaluation Survey**

If you wish to provide your name, please do so here.

	<b>Response Count</b>
	11
<i>answered question</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>59</b>

<b>Response Text</b>		
1	Becky Rooney	Jul 8, 2009 12:54 AM
2	Dirk Moffatt	Jul 8, 2009 1:27 AM
3	Cliff Stone	Jul 8, 2009 4:04 PM
4	David Scott	Jul 8, 2009 5:59 PM
5	Paul LaBolle	Jul 8, 2009 7:59 PM
6	Rob Earl	Jul 9, 2009 11:13 PM
7	Katie Koester	Jul 30, 2009 11:05 PM
8	Louie Flora	Jul 31, 2009 12:27 AM
9	Sheila Peterson	Jul 31, 2009 5:20 PM
10	John Bitney	Aug 18, 2009 12:39 AM
11	DC	Aug 18, 2009 1:04 AM