

**HOUSE BILL NO. 251**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN

Introduced: 5/15/17

Referred:

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to judicial impeachment; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
4 to read:

5 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Responsible Judges Act.

6 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 22.05.120 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 22.05.120. Impeachment.** A supreme court justice is subject to  
8 impeachment by the legislature for malfeasance or misfeasance in the performance of  
9 official duties. **Malfeasance includes exercising legislative power.** Impeachment  
10 shall originate in the senate and shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members.  
11 The motion for impeachment must list fully the basis for the proceeding. Trial on  
12 impeachment shall be conducted by the house of representatives. A supreme court  
13 justice designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of  
14 the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. The judgment  
15 may not extend beyond removal from office, but does not prevent proceedings in the

1 courts on the same or related charges **except that the legislature's judgment under**  
2 **this section is not subject to judicial review.**

3 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 22.07.075 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 22.07.075. Impeachment.** A judge of the court of appeals is subject to  
5 impeachment by the legislature for malfeasance or misfeasance in the performance of  
6 official duties. **Malfeasance includes exercising legislative power.** Impeachment  
7 must originate in the senate and must be approved by two-thirds vote of its members.  
8 The motion for impeachment must list fully the basis for the proceeding. Trial on  
9 impeachment shall be conducted by the house of representatives. A supreme court  
10 justice designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of  
11 the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. The judgment  
12 may not extend beyond removal from office, but does not prevent proceedings in a  
13 court on the same or related charges **except that the legislature's judgment under**  
14 **this section is not subject to judicial review.**

15 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 22.10.170 is amended to read:

16 **Sec. 22.10.170. Impeachment.** A superior court judge is subject to  
17 impeachment by the legislature for malfeasance or misfeasance in the performance of  
18 official duties. **Malfeasance includes exercising legislative power.** Impeachment  
19 shall originate in the senate and must be approved by two-thirds vote of its members.  
20 The motion for impeachment must list fully the basis for the proceeding. Trial on  
21 impeachment shall be conducted by the house of representatives. A supreme court  
22 justice designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of  
23 the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. The judgment  
24 may not extend beyond removal from office, but does not prevent proceedings in the  
25 courts on the same or related charges **except that the legislature's judgment under**  
26 **this section is not subject to judicial review.**

27 \* **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).