SENATE BILL NO. 167

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/18/22
Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to elections, voter registration, ballots, and a system of tracking and accounting for ballots; establishing an election offense hotline; relating to election fraud, election interference, and election official misconduct; requiring signature verification, notice, and the opportunity to cure; and providing for an effective date."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 15.07.060(e) is amended to read:

(e) For an applicant requesting initial registration by mail, by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, or **requesting registration on** [BY COMPLETING] a permanent fund dividend application, the director shall verify the information provided in compliance with (a)(2) and (3) of this section through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e). If the applicant cannot comply with the requirement of (a)(2) of this section because the applicant has not been issued any of the listed numbers, the applicant may instead submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: a

driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.070(i) is amended to read:

(i) The division shall register voters who **request to be registered on** [SUBMIT] an application to receive a permanent fund dividend in accordance with (j) - (m) of this section. **The division shall treat a permanent fund dividend applicant who requests to be registered and who provides the information required under AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9) as a new or updated registered voter.**

*** Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.070(j) is amended to read:

(j) The division shall cooperate with the Department of Revenue under AS 43.23.101 to ensure that the permanent fund dividend application form furnished by the Department of Revenue under AS 43.23.015 allows an applicant, a person who is designated in a power of attorney to act on behalf of an applicant, or a person acting on behalf of a physically disabled applicant to **request to be registered and** submit voter registration information required under AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9), and an attestation that such information is true. The director may require proof of identification of the applicant, if not already in the Department of Revenue's possession, as required by regulations adopted by the director under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

*** Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.070(k) is amended to read:

(k) Upon receipt of the registration information, the director shall, as soon as practicable and in accordance with a schedule established by the director by rule, notify by United States mail and any other means authorized by the director, each applicant **who requested voter registration** [NOT ALREADY REGISTERED TO VOTE] at the address provided in the applicant's application

(1) of the processes to

(A) decline to be registered as a voter;

(B) maintain an existing voter registration or be newly registered at a valid place of residence not provided in the applicant's application; and

(C) adopt a political party affiliation; and

(2) that failure to respond to the notification shall constitute the applicant's consent to cancel any registration to vote in another jurisdiction.

*** Sec. 5.** AS 15.07.070(*l*) is amended to read:

(*l*) If an applicant **requested to be registered and** does not decline to be registered as a voter within 30 calendar days after the director issues the notification, the application under AS 43.23.015 will constitute a completed registration form. The name of the applicant shall be placed on the master register if the director determines that the person is qualified to vote under AS 15.05.010, and the director shall forward to the applicant a registration card. If registration is denied, the applicant shall immediately be informed in writing that registration was denied and the reason for denial.

*** Sec. 6.** AS 15.07.130 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(g) The division shall adopt regulations to review voter registration records and update the master register. The regulations must include reviews for deceased voters, persons convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, persons not qualified to vote under AS 15.05, persons registered to vote in another state, whether the number of registered voters on the master register exceeds the number of eligible voters in the state, and voter registration information data breaches. When reviewing voter registration records, the division shall review available records and databases, which may include United States Postal Service forwarding databases, the Electronic Registration Information Center, motor vehicle records, Department of Corrections records, property and sales tax records, Social Security Administration databases, jury duty records, National Change of Address records, and similar records.

(h) The division shall, in consultation with an external, nationally recognized subject-matter expert selected by the division, biennially audit the master register. The division shall consider the subject-matter expert's recommendations. By February 1 of each year of a general election, the division shall publish a report describing the most recent biennial audit and expert recommendations, identifying protocols used under (g) of this section, providing election information, including the number of voters on the master register and the total population eligible to vote, and highlighting voting data problems, irregularities, errors, and vulnerabilities identified in the audit. The

division shall submit the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available on or before the date the report is published.

*** Sec. 7.** AS 15.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 15.10.106. Prohibition on private funding. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the division may not accept or expend any grants or donations for the administration of elections from private individuals, corporations, or organizations.

*** Sec. 8.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers. (a) **In a general election, special election, or special primary election, a** [THE] precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists, may appoint one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers in each precinct and counting center [FOR ANY ELECTION]. **A** [EACH] candidate may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state [FOR ANY ELECTION]. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes an initiative, referendum, or recall may have one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. A state party chairperson, a precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. [A WATCHER MUST BE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN. THE WATCHER MAY BE PRESENT AT A POSITION INSIDE THE PLACE OF VOTING OR COUNTING THAT AFFORDS A FULL VIEW OF ALL ACTION OF THE ELECTION OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM THE TIME THE POLLS ARE OPENED UNTIL THE BALLOTS ARE FINALLY COUNTED AND THE RESULTS CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD. THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD MAY REQUIRE EACH WATCHER TO PRESENT WRITTEN PROOF SHOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE PRECINCT

PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE THE WATCHER REPRESENTS.]

(b) In [ADDITION TO THE WATCHERS APPOINTED UNDER (a) OF THIS SECTION, IN] a primary election [OR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION OR SPECIAL ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.140], each candidate may appoint one **or more watchers for** [WATCHER IN] each precinct and counting center **in the candidate's respective district or the state. An organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes a ballot proposition or recall may have one or more watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director**.

*** Sec. 9.** AS 15.10.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A watcher appointed under this section may be present at a position inside the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the respective precinct party committee, party district committee, organization or organized group, or candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the respective chairperson of the precinct party committee, party district committee, state party chairperson, organization or organized group, or candidate. A watcher must be a United States citizen.

*** Sec. 10.** AS 15.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 15.15.057. Election offense hotline. The director shall establish a toll-free election offense hotline to receive telephone calls reporting election offenses under this chapter. The director shall publicize the availability of the toll-free hotline and encourage the public to provide information to the division related to voter misconduct or other election offenses under this chapter.

*** Sec. 11.** AS 15.15.240 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.15.240. Voter assistance. A qualified voter needing assistance in voting may request an election official, a person, or not more than two persons of the

voter's choice to assist. If the election official is requested, the election official shall assist the voter. If any other person is requested, the person shall state upon oath before the election official that the person will not divulge the vote cast by the person assisted. **Those providing assistance may not influence the voting decision of the person assisted.**

*** Sec. 12.** AS 15.15.350(a) is amended to read:

(a) The director **shall** [MAY] adopt regulations prescribing the manner in which the precinct ballot count is accomplished so as to ensure accuracy in the count and to expedite the process. The election board shall account for all ballots by completing a ballot statement containing (1) the number of official ballots received; (2) the number of official ballots voted; (3) the number of official ballots spoiled; (4) the number of official ballots unused and [EITHER DESTROYED OR] returned [FOR DESTRUCTION] to the elections supervisor or the election supervisor's designee. The board shall count the number of questioned ballots and compare that number to the number of questioned voters in the register. Discrepancies shall be noted and the numbers included in the certificate prescribed by AS 15.15.370. The election board, in hand-count precincts, shall count the ballots in a manner that allows watchers to see the ballots when opened and read. A person handling the ballot after it has been taken from the ballot box and before it is placed in the envelope for mailing may not have a marking device in hand or remove a ballot from the immediate vicinity of the polls.

*** Sec. 13.** AS 15.15.430(a) is amended to read:

(a) The review of ballot counting by the director shall include only

(1) a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast;

(2) a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law; and

(3) unless the ballot for the house district contains nothing but uncontested offices, a hand count of ballots from one **or more** randomly selected **precincts** [PRECINCT] in each house district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district.

*** Sec. 14.** AS 15.15.470 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.15.470. Preservation and destruction of election ballots, papers, and materials. The director shall preserve all precinct election certificates, tallies, **election data on an electronic storage device,** and registers for **22 months** [FOUR YEARS] after the election. All ballots and stubs for elections [OTHER THAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS] may be destroyed **22 months** [30 DAYS] after the certification of the state ballot counting review unless an application for recount has been filed and not completed, or unless their destruction is stayed by an order of the court. All ballots for national elections may be destroyed in accordance with federal law**, including 52 U.S.C. 20701**. The director may permit the inspection of election materials upon call by the Congress, the state legislature, or a court of competent jurisdiction. **The original used and unused ballots, absentee ballot certificates and envelopes, and the paper records of electronically generated ballots under AS 15.15.032 must be destroyed at a location designated by the division. The division may designate up to two destruction locations, one in the southcentral region and one in the southeast region of the state. The director or the director's designee shall witness the destruction. The director shall then certify before a notary public that the ballots, absentee ballot certificates and envelopes, and paper records have been destroyed.**

*** Sec. 15.** AS 15.20.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.20.020. Provision for general administrative supervision. The director shall provide general administrative supervision over the conduct of absentee voting. The director shall make available instructions to absentee voters regarding the procedure for absentee voting **and the free online system for tracking absentee ballots**.

*** Sec. 16.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material. The director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot, and shall provide **a postage-paid return** [AN] envelope with the prescribed voter's certificate on it, in which the secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The director shall prescribe the form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and

other material used in absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a blank for the voter's signature, a certification that the affiant properly executed the marking of the ballot and gave the voter's identity, blanks for the attesting official or witness, and a place for recording the date the envelope was sealed and witnessed. The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false statements made by the voter or by the attesting official or witness on the certificate are punishable by law.

*** Sec. 17.** AS 15.20.081(b) is amended to read:

(b) An application requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to the applicant by mail must be received by the division of elections not less than 10 days before the election for which the absentee ballot is sought. An application for an absentee ballot for a state election from a qualified voter requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to the applicant by electronic transmission must be received by the division of elections not later than 5:00 p.m. Alaska time on the day before the election for which the absentee ballot is sought. An absentee ballot application submitted by mail under this section must permit the person to register to vote under AS 15.07.070 and to request an absentee ballot for each state election held within that calendar year for which the voter is eligible to vote. An absentee ballot application submitted by electronic transmission under this section may not include a provision that permits a person to register to vote under AS 15.07.070. **Except as provided in AS 15.20.800, an absentee ballot may not be distributed to a voter who does not specifically request an absentee ballot under this section.**

*** Sec. 18.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(m) An absentee ballot application must include an option for a qualified voter to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future statewide elections for a period of four years. After four years, the division shall provide notification that the voter may reapply to receive absentee ballots by mail for another four years. If the voter's previous absentee ballot sent under this section or any other mail sent by the division is returned as undeliverable, the division shall stop sending the voter absentee ballots. A voter may reapply every four years.

*** Sec. 19.** AS 15.20.201(a) is amended to read:

(a) No less than **10** [SEVEN] days preceding the day of election, the election supervisor, in the presence and with the assistance of the district absentee ballot counting board, shall **begin to** review all voter certificates of absentee ballots received by that date. The review of absentee ballots shall continue at times designated by the election supervisor until completed. **An absentee ballot may not be counted until the accompanying voter certificate has been reviewed.**

*** Sec. 20.** AS 15.20.203(a) is amended to read:

(a) The district absentee ballot counting board shall examine each absentee ballot envelope and shall determine whether the absentee voter is qualified to vote at the election**, whether the signature on the certificate is consistent with the voter's signature in voter registration records,** and whether the absentee ballot has been properly cast.

*** Sec. 21.** AS 15.20.203(b) is amended to read:

(b) An absentee ballot may not be counted if

(1) the voter has failed to properly execute the certificate;

(2) an official or the witnesses authorized by law to attest the voter's certificate fail to execute the certificate, except that an absentee ballot cast in person and accepted by an absentee voting official or election supervisor may be counted despite failure of the absentee voting official or election supervisor to properly sign and date the voter's certificate as attesting official as required under AS 15.20.061(c);

(3) the ballot is not attested on or before the date of the election;

(4) the ballot, if postmarked, is not postmarked on or before the date of the election;

(5) after the day of election, the ballot was delivered by a means other than mail; [OR]

(6) the voter voted

(A) in person and is a

(i) first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, has not provided the identification required by

AS 15.15.225(a), was not eligible for waiver of the identification requirement under AS 15.15.225(b), and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3) that can be verified through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e); or

(ii) voter other than one described in (i) of this subparagraph, did not provide identification described in AS 15.15.225(a), was not personally known by the election official, and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3); or

(B) by mail or electronic transmission, is a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 to vote, has not met the identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060, and does not submit with the ballot a copy of a

[(i)] driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license [;OR

(ii) CURRENT UTILITY BILL, BANK STATEMENT, PAYCHECK, GOVERNMENT CHECK, OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT; AN ITEM DESCRIBED IN THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH MUST SHOW THE NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF THE VOTER]; **or**

(7) the signature on the certificate is inconsistent with the voter's signature in voter registration records.

*** Sec. 22.** AS 15.20.203 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(k) The district absentee counting board shall determine whether a voter's signature on the certificate is consistent with the voter's signature in voter registration records under (a) of this section using a signature verification process that includes signature comparison software, according to a procedure provided in regulations adopted by the director.

*** Sec. 23.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 15.20.221. Ballot tracking system. (a) The director shall establish a free online system, available through the division's Internet website, through which a voter may

(1) confirm that the voter's ballot has been sent by the division;

(2) track the date of the ballot's delivery to the voter;

(3) confirm the division's receipt of the voter's ballot;

(4) determine whether the voter's certificate has been reviewed; and

(4) determine whether the voter's ballot has been counted.

(b) The online system established under (a) of this section must indicate to a voter

(1) the process by which the voter may cure the lack of signature or verify the voter's identity, if the signature on the voter's ballot was missing or was determined to not match the signature in the voter's registration record under AS 15.20.203(k); and

(2) the reason the voter's ballot was not counted, if the ballot was not counted.

(c) The online system established under (a) of this section must allow an election official access to the names and political affiliations of all persons

(1) named on the master register, including those persons whose voter registrations are inactivated under AS 15.07.130(b); and

(2) whose names must be placed on the official registration list under AS 15.07.070(c) or (d).

(d) In establishing the online system under (a) of this section, the director shall ensure that the design of the system allows a voter to access information easily under (a) and (b) of this section through a mobile electronic device.

Sec. 15.20.222. Procedure for curing uncounted ballot. (a) If a voter returns a ballot and the voter does not have a signature stored in voter registration records, the certificate is missing a signature, or the signature on the certificate is determined under AS 15.20.203 to not match the signature in voter registration records, the director shall, within 48 hours, but in no event later than two days after election day, send a notification by first class, non-forwardable mail to the address indicated in the voter's

registration record and, if provided, by electronic mail to the voter's electronic mail address or by telephone call or text message to the voter's telephone number.

(b) The notification provided to the voter under (a) of this section must include an explanation of the need for a signature for verification purposes and provide the voter a form and instructions for the voter to, within the period specified in (c)(1) of this section,

(1) confirm that the voter returned a ballot to the division;

(2) provide a copy of a form of identification accepted by the division under AS 15.07.060(e); and

(3) provide a signature for verification.

(c) A voter's ballot that is not counted for a reason set out in (a) of this section may be counted only if

(1) the division receives the form sent to the voter under (b) of this section from the voter within 14 days after election day and the form confirms that the voter returned a ballot to the division;

(2) the voter provides a signature for verification and includes a copy of a form of identification accepted by the division under AS 15.07.060(e); and

(3) the ballot is otherwise valid.

(d) A voter's ballot may not be counted and the director shall, if applicable, send copies of the signature on the voter's return envelope and the signature stored in voter registration records to the attorney general for investigation if

(1) the voter returns the form received under (b) of this section and the form indicates that the voter did not return a ballot to the division; or

(2) the voter does not return the form received under (b) of this section within 14 days after election day.

(e) An election official may not determine that the signature on a voter's return envelope does not match the signature stored in the voter's registration record solely based on substitution of initials or use of a common nickname.

(f) The director shall provide training in signature comparison and the use of signature comparison software to election officials who compare signatures under this section.

(g) The division shall update the signature stored in voter registration records if the voter, after providing a copy of a form of identification accepted by the division under AS 15.07.060(e), either provides a signature for the voter's missing signature or cures a nonmatching signature under this section.

*** Sec. 24.** AS 15.20.900 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(c) The division shall adopt regulations that provide for a routine forensic examination of each precinct tabulator before and after each election.

(d) A precinct tabulator may not be connected to the Internet from 24 hours before the polls open on election day until 14 days after the polls close. During this time, all tabulator data must be loaded from the tabulator onto a separate storage device and transmitted from a computer that is not connected to the tabulator.

(e) The division shall adopt regulations prescribing strict chain-of-custody protocols for precinct tabulators.

*** Sec. 25.** AS 15.56.035(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person commits the crime of unlawful interference with voting in the second degree if the person

(1) has an official ballot in possession outside of the voting room unless the person is an election official or other person authorized by law or local ordinance, or by the director or chief municipal elections official in a local election;

(2) makes, or knowingly has in possession, a counterfeit of an official election ballot;

(3) knowingly solicits or encourages, directly or indirectly, a registered voter who is no longer qualified to vote under AS 15.05.010, to vote in an election;

(4) as a registration official

(A) knowingly refuses to register a person who is entitled to register under AS 15.07.030; or

(B) accepts a fee from an applicant applying for registration;

(5) violates AS 15.20.081(a) by knowingly supplying or encouraging or assisting another person to supply to a voter an absentee ballot application form with a political party or group affiliation indicated if the voter is not already registered as affiliated with that political party or group;

(6) knowingly designs, marks, or encourages or assists another person to design or mark an absentee ballot application in a manner that suggests choice of one ballot over another as prohibited by AS 15.20.081(a); [OR]

(7) knowingly submits or encourages or assists another person to submit an absentee ballot application to an intermediary who could control or delay the submission of the application to the division of elections or who could gather data from the application form as prohibited by AS 15.20.081(a)**; or**

(8) knowingly possesses a ballot provided to another voter under this title unless the person is

(A) a family member of the voter;

(B) a caregiver of the voter; or

(C) engaged in official duties as an election official or a worker for the United States Postal Service or a private commercial delivery service.

*** Sec. 26.** AS 15.56.060(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person commits the crime of unlawful interference with an election if the person

(1) induces or attempts to induce an election official to fail in the official's duty by force, threat, intimidation, or offers of reward;

(2) intentionally changes, attempts to change, or causes to be changed an official election document including ballots, tallies, and returns;

(3) intentionally delays, attempts to delay, or causes to be delayed the sending of the certificate, register, ballots, or other materials whether original or duplicate, required to be sent by AS 15.15.370; [OR]

(4) **intentionally tampers with, or opens without the express authorization from the director, a sealed absentee ballot certificate, absentee ballot envelope, or package of ballots;**

(5) intentionally breaches, hacks, alters, or tampers with election machinery, including a tabulator machine, program, system, server, or software used to verify identity, count, tabulate, manage, or control any election function; or

(6) is contracted or employed by the state to print or reproduce in any manner an official ballot, and the person knowingly

(A) personally appropriates, or gives or delivers to, or permits to be taken by anyone other than a person authorized by the director, official ballots; or

(B) prints or reproduces or has printed or reproduced official ballots in a form or with a content other than that prescribed by law or as directed by the director.

*** Sec. 27.** AS 15.56 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 15.56.065. Election fraud. (a) A person commits the crime of election fraud if the person violates AS 15.56.060 and causes the outcome of an election to change.

(b) Election fraud is a class B felony.

*** Sec. 28.** AS 15.56.070(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person commits the crime of election official misconduct in the first degree if while an election official, the person

(1) intentionally fails to perform an election duty or knowingly does an unauthorized act with the intent to affect an election or its results;

(2) knowingly permits or makes or attempts to make a false count of election returns; [OR]

(3) intentionally conceals, withholds, destroys, or attempts to conceal, withhold, or destroy election returns**; or**

(4) knowingly shares with, discloses, or reports to a person who is not an election official election returns, results, or similar confidential election data before the polls close on election day.

*** Sec. 29.** AS 15.58.020(a) is amended to read:

(a) Each general election pamphlet must contain

(1) photographs and campaign statements submitted by eligible candidates for elective office in the region;

(2) information and recommendations filed under AS 15.58.050 on judicial officers subject to a retention election in the region;

(3) a map of the house district or districts of the region;

(4) sample ballots for house districts of the region;

(5) an absentee ballot application;

(6) for each ballot proposition submitted to the voters by initiative or referendum petition or by the legislature,

(A) the full text of the proposition specifying constitutional or statutory provisions proposed to be affected;

(B) the ballot title and the summary of the proposition prepared by the director or by the lieutenant governor;

(C) a statement of the costs to the state of implementing the law proposed in an initiative, or of voter approval or rejection of the act that is the subject of a referendum;

(D) a neutral summary of the proposition prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency;

(E) statements submitted that advocate voter approval or rejection of the proposition not to exceed 500 words;

(7) for each bond question, a statement of the scope of each project as it appears in the bond authorization;

(8) a maximum of two pages of material submitted under AS 15.58.040 by each political party;

(9) additional information on voting procedures that the lieutenant governor considers necessary;

(10) for the question whether a constitutional convention shall be called,

(A) a full statement of the question placed on the ballot;

(B) statements not to exceed 500 words that advocate voter approval or rejection of the question;

(11) under AS 37.13.170, the Alaska permanent fund annual income statement and balance sheet for the two fiscal years preceding the publication of the election pamphlet;

(12) under AS 15.10.090, notice of

(A) the establishment or abolition of a precinct;

(B) the designation, abolition, or modification of precinct boundaries; and

(C) a change in the location of a polling place;

(13) **the division's election offense hotline phone number; and**

(14) the following statement written in bold in a conspicuous location:

Each candidate may designate the political party or political group that the candidate is registered as affiliated with. A candidate's political party or political group designation on a ballot does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party or political group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate.

In each race, you may vote for any candidate listed. If a primary election was held for a state office, United States senator, or United States representative, the four candidates who received the most votes for the office in the primary election advanced to the general election. However, if one of the four candidates who received the most votes for an office at the primary election died, withdrew, resigned, was disqualified, or was certified as incapacitated 64 days or more before the general election, the candidate who received the fifth most votes for the office advanced to the general election.

At the general election, each candidate will be selected through a ranked-choice voting process and the candidate with the greatest number of votes will be elected. For a general election, you must rank the candidates in the numerical order of your preference, ranking as many candidates as you wish. Your second, third, and subsequent ranked choices will be counted only if the candidate you ranked first does not receive enough votes to continue on to the next round of counting, so ranking a second, third, or subsequent choice will not hurt your first-choice candidate. Your ballot will be counted regardless of whether you choose to rank one, two, or more candidates for each office, but it will not be counted if you assign the same ranking to more than one candidate for the same office.

*** Sec. 30.** AS 18.65.240(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person may not be appointed as a police officer, except on a probationary basis, unless the person (1) has satisfactorily completed a basic program of police training approved by the council, which includes at least 12 hours of instruction regarding domestic violence**, as that term is defined in AS 18.66.990,** [AND] at least 12 hours of instruction regarding sexual assault, as **that term is** [THOSE TERMS ARE] defined in AS 18.66.990, **and at least four hours of instruction in detecting and investigating election offenses;** and (2) possesses other qualifications the council has established for the employment of police officers, including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, moral character, and experience. The council shall prescribe the means of presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements.

*** Sec. 31.** AS 43.23.015(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall prescribe and furnish an application form for claiming a permanent fund dividend. The application must include

(1) notice of the penalties provided for under AS 43.23.270;

(2) a statement of eligibility and a certification of residency;

(3) the means for an applicant eligible to vote under AS 15.05, or a person authorized to act on behalf of the applicant, to **request the applicant be registered to vote and** furnish information required by AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9), and an attestation that such information is true.

*** Sec. 32.** AS 43.23.101 is amended to read:

Sec. 43.23.101. Voter registration. The commissioner shall establish by rule a schedule by which the commissioner will provide, and shall provide as soon as is practicable the director of elections with

(1) electronic records from the permanent fund dividend applications of the information required by AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9), and the attestation that such information is true, for each permanent fund dividend applicant who **requested to be registered to vote and is**

(A) [IS] a citizen of the United States; and

(B) [IS] at least 18 years of age or will be within 90 days of the date of the application; and

(2) the mailing addresses for all permanent fund dividend applicants.

*** Sec. 33.** AS 15.15.225(a)(2); AS 15.20.081(f)(2), 15.20.203(j), 15.20.207(k), and 15.20.211(f) are repealed.

*** Sec. 34.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. AS 15.56.035(a), as amended by sec. 25 of this Act, AS 15.56.060(a), as amended by sec. 26 of this Act, AS 15.56.065, enacted by sec. 27 of this Act, and AS 15.56.070(a), as amended by sec. 28 of this Act, apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of secs. 25 - 28 of this Act.

*** Sec. 35.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The director of elections may adopt regulations to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulations.

*** Sec. 36.** Sections 20 - 24 of this Act take effect July 1, 2022.

*** Sec. 37.** Section 35 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

*** Sec. 38.** Except as provided in secs. 36 and 37 of this Act, this Act takes effect April 1, 2022.