

# Alaska State Legislature

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## **An Act establishing a permanent absentee voting option for qualified voters; and providing for an effective date.**

This act will streamline the absentee voting process for Alaskans by giving voters the option to register for permanent absentee voting status for state elections. Once a voter is on the permanent absentee voter roll, they will not have to fill out an absentee request form for each election cycle. Instead, an absentee ballot will be automatically sent to them by the Division of Elections.

This act will expedite the absentee voting process for Alaskans who vote absentee as their primary avenue of voting. This bill will reduce paperwork for the Division of Elections and will increase access to voting. This act will affect Alaskans across the board from rural Alaskans to college students to senior citizens who choose to vote from home.

Currently, absentee voting solely consists of “early and in-person voting”, and “voting by mail and fax.” This act does not change voting rights. Voters can still request a one-time absentee ballot vote at their regular voting places, just as they do now.

This act does not change any of the security or evaluation procedures that are already in place in Alaska statutes for handling absentee ballots; all of the provisions currently in place for absentee ballots would apply to permanent absentee ballots. This act includes a provision for removal from the permanent absentee roll if the Division of Elections receives notice that mail sent to the voter’s address is undeliverable.

This act only applies only to primary, general and special elections, not local elections, and any election for which the state has the responsibility for the conduct of the election.

Thank you for your consideration.