

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Pete Petersen Serving Northeast Anchorage and Muldoon

Sectional Analysis of HB 260

Section 1 of this bill amends AS 15.07.127 by adding a new subsection (b) that states “the director shall maintain the list under (a) of this section so that the names of persons who have the status of permanent absentee voters under AS 15.20.085 may be readily identified.”

Section 2 of this bill amends AS 15.07.130(e) by adding (b) which states that a voter who applies to the Division of Elections for a permanent absentee voter status qualifies as a voter who “appears to vote” under (b) and (d) of this section.

Section 3 Amends AS 15.20 by adding a new section (15.20.085) that:

- (a) enables Alaskan voters to apply to the Division of Elections for permanent absentee voting status;
- (b) allows a person to provide a voter with a permanent absentee voting application form with a political party or group affiliation only if that voter is already registered with the political party or group indicated. This paragraph also sets forth requirements that only the voter may mark the application form, indicate their choice of primary ballot and submit the application to the Division of Elections on a form prescribed by the Director of the Division of Elections;
- (c) requires the Division of Elections to send an absentee ballot to each voter designated as a permanent absentee voter for each state primary, general and special election and any other election for which the state has the responsibility for conducting the election; and establishes the timeline and manner in which the ballots will be sent;
- (d) requires the Director of the Division of Elections to make change of address forms available for permanent absentee voters;
- (e) allows the Director of the Division of Elections to not send an absentee ballot if the Division has received notice that mail sent to an address is undeliverable;
- (f) allows a permanent absent voter to cast the ballot under AS 15.20.081(d), which lists persons who are authorized to witness the casting of a ballot, and AS 15.20.081(e), which lists the dates by

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which the ballot must be cast and the means by which it must be returned to the Division of Elections;

(g) requires that ballots voted under this section be reviewed under the procedures that are established for the review of absentee ballots in AS 15.20.201 and AS 15.20.203;

(h) establishes that nothing in this section prohibits a person from voting early, or in person at a precinct, or in person before an absentee voting official, or by electronic submission as provided by AS 15.15.195, AS 15.15.198, AS 15.20.061, AS 15.20.064 and AS 15.20.066..

Section 4 amends AS 15.56.030(a) by making the provisions that govern the unlawful interference with voting in the first degree apply to permanent absentee voting.

Section 5 amends AS 15.56.035(a) by making the provisions that govern the unlawful interference with voting in the second degree apply to permanent absentee voting.

Section 6 authorizes the Director of the Division of Elections to adopt regulations to implement the changes made in this act.

Section 7 provides for an immediate effective date for section 6, which will allow the Division of Elections to adopt regulations to implement the changes made in this act.

Section 8 provides for a January 1, 2013 effective date for all other provisions of this act.