

## **House Bill 104 – Version N**

***“An Act relating to election practices and procedures; relating to the election of an advisory school board in a regional educational attendance area; and providing for an effective date.”***

### **Sectional Analysis**

Section 1 - specifies that the division may conduct elections for advisory school boards in regional educational attendance areas.

Section 2 - allows a child turning 18 who resides outside the U.S. to register and vote absentee if their parent or guardian was domiciled in Alaska immediately before leaving the U.S. This section is aimed at voters who turn 18 while living abroad with their parents or guardians.

Section 3 - Amends AS 15.10.170 to require that poll watchers be persons that are registered to vote in the state.

Section 4 - Amends AS 15.10.180 to require that persons on the state ballot counting review board be registered voters in the state.

Section 5 - Amends AS 15.13.374(f) to provide that the *name of a person requesting an advisory opinion* from the Alaska Public Offices Commission is confidential and must be redacted from both the request and the opinion before the opinion is made public.

Section 6 - allows the division to designate municipal clerks to serve as absentee voting officials in municipalities where the division does not have an absentee voting station.

Section 7 - clarifies that voters (other than uniformed services voters or overseas voters) who wish to receive their ballot by electronic transmission must comply with the same ballot application deadlines applicable to absentee voting in person.

Section 8 - clarifies that ballots are sent to voters as soon as they are available for distribution with the exception of uniformed services and overseas voters whose ballots must be mailed 45 days prior to the election.

Section 9 - removes the reference to receipt of by-mail ballots (postmarked from overseas) 15 days following the election.

Section 10 - adds harmonizing language from federal law that ballots for uniformed services and overseas voters will be mailed 45 days prior to an election. Also adds that voters living, working, traveling outside the U.S. at election time or those living in remote areas of the state will have a ballot mailed 45 days prior to an election.

Section 11 - removes the reference to receipt of by-mail ballots (postmarked from overseas) 15 days following the election.

Section 12 - changes the date of the primary election to the second Tuesday in August (currently is the fourth Tuesday in August).

Section 13 - changes the withdrawal date for primary election candidates to 52 days prior to the primary election (currently is 48 days).

Sections 14 and 15 - change the date to replace unopposed incumbent candidates to 54 days prior to the primary election (currently is 50 days) and filling of vacancy by party petition to 52 days prior to the primary election (currently is 48 days).

Sections 16 and 17 - change the date to replace a candidate nominated at the primary election to 64 days before the general election (currently is 48 days).

Section 18 - changes the withdrawal date for a candidate appearing on the general election ballot to 64 days prior to the general election (currently is 48 days).

Section 19 - changes the withdrawal date for judicial candidates to 64 days prior to the general election (currently is 48 days).

Section 20 - Adds a new subsection amending AS 15.58.030 to require the lieutenant governor to publish an electronic election pamphlet on the division's internet website before each state election. Photograph and statement are provided and paid for by candidate and that the information must be published within one week from receipt of the information.

Section 21 - adds federal definitions of absentee uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

Section 22 - allows municipal clerks to serve as absentee voting officials in municipalities where the division does not have an absentee voting station.

Section 23 - repeals provision for ballots postmarked from overseas to be received 15 days following election (all ballots would be received 10 days following the election as provided in AS 15.20.081(e)); repeals the allowance of an absentee application from a uniformed services or overseas voter to be extended for two general elections (harmonize with federal law); repeal the requirement to send special absentee ballots.

Section 24 - provides for an effective of January 1, 2014.