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SB 9 SPONSOR STATEMENT

An Act relating to the matching of identifying information a voter provides to the Division of Elections with the records of the Department of Administration and the Department of Revenue; relating to the release of certain confidential voter registration records; and repealing a requirement that certain material provided by a political party be included in the general election pamphlet.

Senate Bill 9 amends AS 15.07.055(e) to clarify that the Director of the Division of Elections will enter into agreements with the Departments of Administration and Revenue to verify that information provided by *all* voters matches existing identification records maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Permanent Fund Division, and allows the Elections Division to securely share voter registration information to another state or group of states through a non-profit entity governed by a board of directors made up of member-states for the purpose of ensuring accuracy of the state's voter registration list and the eligibility of voters on the list to participate in state elections, providing the state or group of states agrees to protect the confidentiality of the information.

Such information sharing will improve the integrity of Alaska's voter registration data and our electoral process by enabling the Division of Elections to identify voters who are ineligible to vote, deceased, have changed residence addresses within Alaska, moved out of state or have moved to Alaska from another state but have not registered to vote here.

Senate Bill 9 further amends Title 15 *Elections* regulating the content of election pamphlets and repeals the authority to include advertising from a political party in the publicly funded election pamphlet. The election pamphlet produced by the Division of Elections is intended to provide information about candidates, initiatives and judges to help voters be knowledgeable about matters that will be on their election ballot.

The Division of Elections reports that the revenue generated by political party submissions was \$2,400 in the last election pamphlet, less than 1% of the cost of producing and mailing the document. Every election cycle voters are bombarded with political mailings, flyers, as well as radio and television advertisements. The publicly funded election pamphlet should not be a platform for political advertising but a source of free, unbiased, in-depth information about current officials, candidates, issues and legislation.

Senate Bill 9 improves the integrity of our voter registration lists, and will help keep election pamphlets as informative as possible and free of political advertisement.

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