



House Bill 194
AK Securities Act; Penalties; Crt. Rules
Brief Sectional Analysis

This analysis focuses on the major changes proposed under the new Act. A detailed analysis is also available upon request.

Article 1. General Provisions (pp. 1-2)

Sec. 45.56.105. Securities registration requirement – same as current law (45.55.070). Securities must be registered before offer or sale unless federally covered or specifically exempt from registration.

Article 2. Exemptions from Registration of Securities (pp. 2-17)

Sec. 45.56.205. Exempt securities – generally the same as current law, AS 45.55.900(a) with a few additions including securities issued by an insurance company; certain options, warrants and rights that are not federal covered securities; certain cooperatives and equipment trust certificates.

Sec. 45.56.210. Exempt transactions – generally the same as current law AS 45.55.900(b), reorganized with additions reflecting transactions allowed under the Uniform Securities Act of 2002 (USA).

Sec. 45.56.220. Small intrastate securities offerings (referred to as “Crowdfunding”) – Allows Alaskans to invest up to \$5,000 per person, per offering, in an Alaskan business. Businesses can raise up to \$1 million per offering and requires a notice filing with the state and certain investor disclosures and protections.

Sec. 45.56.230. Disqualifier – prohibits persons who have been subject to regulatory action or participated in certain crimes from using the available exemptions from the registration requirement (including crowdfunding).

Sec. 45.56.240. Waiver and modification – broadens the administrator’s authority to waive or change requirements or conditions for exemptions.

Sec. 45.56.250. Denial, suspension, revocation, condition, or limitation of exemptions – same, although the appeal rights and hearing information is moved to Article 6.

Article 3. Registration of Securities and Notice Filing of Federal Covered Securities. (pp. 17-29)

Note: No significant changes to registration provisions from AS 45.55. Material changes are noted by section.

Sec. 45.56.305. Securities registration by coordination – registration statement must be on file with the Administrator for 20 days unless reduced by regulation. Currently, a 10 day requirement. References to prompt notice by telegram are deleted.

Sec. 45.56.310. Securities registration by qualification – adds a new requirement that filers disclose pending litigation that materially affects the issuer or litigation that is known to be contemplated by governmental authorities.

Sec. 45.56.320. Securities registration filings – allows the administrator to set escrow time by regulation or order for certain securities issued to a promoter or to other persons at a price substantially less than the public offering price.

Sec. 45.56.330. Notice filing of federal covered securities – allows imposition of late fees.

Sec. 45.56.340. Viatical settlement interests – combines current AS 45.55.120 and AS 45.55.905(c) to explain the joint regulation of these interest by the Securities and Insurance statutes.

Sec. 45.56.350. Waiver and modification – Administrator allowed waiver authorities consolidated from other sections.

Sec. 45.56.360. Denial, suspension, and revocation of securities registration – adds requirement to establish regulations explaining what conduct may be fraud upon purchasers; unreasonable discounts, compensation, profits (including options, etc.) and terms that are unfair, unjust or inequitable.

Article 4. Broker-dealers, Agents, Investment Advisers, Investment Adviser Representatives, and Federal Covered Investment Advisers. (pp. 29-54)

Firm, salesperson, and adviser registration (licensing) provisions are reorganized into one article, making it more user-friendly than current law. Notable changes are listed below.

Sec. 45.56.405. Broker-dealer registration requirement and exemptions – includes a new “snowbird exemption” to facilitate ongoing broker-customer relationships with customers who have established a second or other residence and clarifies the number of transactions a broker-dealer may effect annually (3) if not registered in Alaska.

Sec. 45.56.410. Limited registration of Canadian broker-dealers and agents – changed annual renewal to December 31 from December 1.

Sec. 45.56.420. Registration exemption for merger and acquisition broker – this new provision exempts mergers and acquisitions brokers from registration (licensing) requirements because these transactions are typically between knowing parties with adequate legal counsel and scrutiny. The exemption is not available if the broker actually handles the securities exchanged in the transaction or otherwise represents an issuer or public shell company, or is subject to Securities and Exchange Commission action.

Sec. 45.56.430. Agent registration requirement and exemptions – the rewrite of this statute includes a statement of the types of business covered here instead of in a definitional section.

Sec. 45.56.435. Investment adviser registration requirement and exemptions – Includes a new “snowbird” exemption that matches the broker-dealer exemption in Sec 45.56.405.

Sec. 45.56.440. Investment adviser representative registration requirement and exemptions – these provisions mirror the broker-dealer agents in Sec. 45.56.430.

Sec. 45.56.445. Federal covered investment adviser notice filing requirement – these provisions were not separately stated in the current law.

Sec. 45.56.450. Registration by broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, and investment adviser representative – combines provisions in current statute and regulations and extends the automatic registration from 30 to 45 days unless the registration is denied.

Sec. 45.56.455. Succession and change in registration of broker-dealer or investment adviser – clarifies that an organizational change can generally be completed by amendment instead of a new registration (for instance a sole proprietorship moving to a limited liability company).

Sec. 45.56.460. Termination of employment or association of agent and investment adviser representative and transfer of employment or association – requires the registrant files a notification with the division. Allows an immediate temporary effective registration with a new firm when no new disciplinary information is added.

Sec. 45.56.465. Withdrawal of registration of broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, and investment adviser representative – extends the effective date of registration withdrawal up to 60 days and allows a revocation proceeding to commence within one year.

Sec. 45.56.470. Filing fees – are established and may be paid through a designee by regulation.

Sec. 45.56.475. Post registration requirements – allows establishing continuing education by regulation.

Sec. 45.56.480. Denial, revocation, suspension, withdrawal, restriction, condition, or limitation of registration – in addition to current provisions, allows the administrator to bar registration and includes actions taken by other regulators. Civil penalty for registrants is increased from \$2,500-\$10,000 per violation to up to \$100,000 per violation.

Article 5. Fraud and Liabilities. (pp. 54-56)

Sec. 45.56.505. General fraud – same as current AS 45.55.010.

Sec. 45.56.510. Prohibited conduct in providing investment advice – allows administrator to define prohibited conduct by regulation.

Sec. 45.56.520. Misleading filings – same as current AS 45.55.160.

Sec. 45.56.530. Misrepresentations concerning registration or exemption – same content as AS 45.55.170.

Sec. 45.56.540. Evidentiary burden – same content as AS 45.55.900(c).

Sec. 45.56.550. Filing of sales and advertising literature – same content as AS 45.55.150.

Sec. 45.56.560. Qualified immunity – registered persons are not liable to other registered persons, under state defamation laws, for statements contained in disclosure records required to be filed with the administrator for purposes of licensing and potential discipline. This provision encourages full disclosure to the administrator.

Article 6. Administration and Judicial Review. (pp. 56-78)

Sec. 45.56.605. Administration – allows acceptance of grants or donations for investor education and creates a securities and investor education and training fund with 33% of civil penalties received. Clarifies that variable annuities are subject to both the Insurance law and the Securities Act. (See also Article 7, Section 2)

Sec. 45.56.610. Administrative files and opinions – requires the administrator keep records according to a retention schedule and outlines publicly disclosable documents.

Sec. 45.56.615. Public records; confidentiality – clarifies and specifies record confidentiality.

Sec. 45.56.620. Uniformity and cooperation with other agencies – expands opportunity for cooperation and sharing with governmental units, regulatory organizations for collaborative efforts including regulation, enforcement and coordination to reduce the burden of raising capital by small business.

Sec. 45.56.625. Jurisdiction – application of the law to interstate or international transactions.

Sec. 45.56.630. Service of process – same as current AS 45.55.980.

Sec. 45.56.635. Applicability of the chapter – same as current AS 45.55.980.

Sec. 45.56.640. Regulations, forms, orders, interpretative opinions, and hearings – combines existing AS 45.55.950 and 45.55.970 and clarifies that GAAP compliant financial statements may only be required as allowed by federal law.

Sec. 45.56.645. Investigations and subpoenas – similar to existing AS 45.55.910 and allows broader cooperation with other regulators.

Sec. 45.56.650. Administrative enforcement – time for a respondent to make a request for hearing after an action is taken is extended from 15 days to 30 days. Civil penalties are increased from \$2,500 for a single violation and \$25,000 for multiple violations to a maximum of \$100,000 for a single violation with no cap for multiple violations. If a victim is an “older Alaskan” (a person over 60 years old), the respondent is subject to treble damages. Restitution and actual costs of investigation may be ordered. The administrator may deny the use of securities exemptions under Article 2 and registration (licensing) exemptions under Article 4 if a person violates the Act. The administrator may petition the Superior Court to enforce a final order and the Court may hold a person in contempt for violating an order of the administrator, punishable by up to \$100,000 per violation, in addition to any administrative penalties that were originally assessed.

Sec. 45.56.655. Civil enforcement – the administrator may seek remedies such as asset freezes, an order of rescission, restitution, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 per violation, and all damages may be trebled if the victim is an “older Alaskan” (person over 60 years old).

Sec. 45.56.660. Civil liability – outlines instances where the seller is liable to the purchaser and potential remedies (actual damages generally); also describes instances where the buyer may be liable to the seller.

Sec. 45.56.665. Rescission offers – outlines the rescission offer process, including a new requirement that the offeror must demonstrate his or her ability to pay and then actually pay as promised.

Sec. 45.56.670. Criminal enforcement – knowing violations of the Act and fraud are punishable as class C felonies punishable under AS 12.55.125. Unknowing violations are punishable as class A misdemeanors and fine of not more than \$100,000. Individuals who alter or destroy evidence are guilty of a class C felony and a fine of not more the \$500,000 or both.

Sec. 45.56.675. Judicial review – appellants have 30 days to request review of a final order.

Article 7. Miscellaneous and Additional General Provisions. (pp. 78-109)

Sec. 45.56.710. Reimbursement of expenses incident to examination or investigation – same as AS 45.55.915.

Sec. 45.56.720. Electronic records and signatures – facilitates filing of electronic records and signatures. Consumers must consent and have the option to withdraw such consent.

Sec. 45.56.730. References to federal statutes – a list of all federal statutes referenced in the Act.

Sec. 45.56.740. References to federal agencies – notes that references to an agency of the United States is also a reference to a successor agency.

Sec. 45.56.900. Definitions.

- Updates federal citations
- New definitions include:
 - o Disqualifier
 - o Filing
 - o Institutional investor (reflects federal law)
 - o Insurance company
 - o Insured
 - o International Banking Institution
 - o Offer to purchase
 - o Older Alaskan – a person residing in the state that is age 60 or older (from AS 47.26.290(6))
 - o Price amendment
 - o Record
 - o Self-regulatory organization
 - o Sign

Sec. 45.56.735. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Alaska Securities Act.

Sections 2 – 35 (pp. 89-109) include the corresponding changes to statutes that refer to former

AS 45.55 provisions that have been moved to AS 45.56.

SECTION 2 – SECTION 6 – Citations are modified to reflect Chapter 45.56 in place of Chapter 45.55 references and terms are updated.

SECTION 7- SECTION 8 – Modifies AS 21.96 variable annuity and viatical provisions.

SECTION 9 – SECTION 15 – Citations are modified to reflect Chapter 45.56 in place of Chapter 45.55 references and terms are updated.

SECTION 16 – SECTION 25 – Modifies AS 45.55 as necessary to delete references to statutes that have no bearing on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations because of the enactment of AS 45.56.

SECTION 26 – SECTION 28 – Citations are modified to reflect Chapter 45.56 in place of Chapter 45.55 references and correct federal law references.

SECTION 29 – Repeals statutes that are no longer needed in AS 45.55 because they do not apply to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporation proxy solicitations.

SECTION 30 – Amends indirect Court Rules relating to changes in AS 45.56.

SECTION 31 – Allows the department to adopt transition regulations to implement the Act.

SECTION 32 – Amends the law to effect transition and application of AS 45.55 for existing proceedings, existing rights and duties.

SECTION 33 – Reviser's instruction to rename AS 45.55 to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations Proxy Solicitations.

SECTION 34 – Conditional Effect. Certain of the changes to the Securities Act will only take effect if Court Rule changes in Section 24 is passed by two-thirds majority vote of each the House and Senate.

SECTION 35 – July 1, 2015 effective date.