

SENATE BILL NO. 73

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR COGHILL

Introduced: 3/4/19

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to succession to the offices of governor and lieutenant governor in case**
2 **of vacancy; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.19.042 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 44.19.042. Succession to office.** If a vacancy occurs in the office of
6 governor and the regularly elected lieutenant governor succeeds to the office of
7 governor as provided by art. III, sec. 11, of the constitution, or if the office of
8 lieutenant governor otherwise becomes vacant, the person designated as next
9 successor to the office of lieutenant governor as provided in **(b) of this section**
10 [AS 44.19.040] succeeds to the office of lieutenant governor for the remainder of the
11 term vacated, or until a special election is held. [WHEN THE PERSON APPOINTED
12 UNDER AS 44.19.040 SUCCEEDS TO THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT
13 GOVERNOR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A PERSON TO SUCCEED TO
14 THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN CASE OF A SUBSEQUENT

VACANCY.]

* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.19.042 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(b) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant, the order of succession is as follows:

(1) the attorney general;

(2) the commissioner of health and social services;

(3) the commissioner of education and early development;

(4) the commissioner of administration;

(5) the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs;

(6) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development;

(7) the commissioner of labor and workforce development;

(8) the commissioner of public safety.

(c) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the lieutenant governor and the person next in the order of succession established under (b) of this section declines the appointment, or the office that is next in the order of succession under (b) of this section is vacant, the person holding the office that is next in the order of succession under (b) of this section shall succeed to the office of lieutenant governor.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.19.044 is amended to read:

Sec. 44.19.044. Special election in case of second vacancy in office of governor. If the regularly elected lieutenant governor succeeds to the office of governor as provided in the constitution and later [THEREAFTER], during the same regular gubernatorial term, the office of governor again becomes vacant, the person who succeeded to the office of [APPOINTED] lieutenant governor shall succeed [SUCCEEDS] to the office of acting governor until a special election to elect a governor and lieutenant governor is held.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 44.19.046 is amended to read:

Sec. 44.19.046. Simultaneous vacancies. If vacancies in the office of governor and the office of lieutenant governor occur simultaneously, the person designated as next successor to the office of lieutenant governor as provided in

1 **AS 44.19.042(b)** [APPOINTED UNDER AS 44.19.040] succeeds directly to the
2 office of acting governor until successors to the respective offices are elected in a
3 special election.

4 * **Sec. 5.** AS 44.19.040 is repealed.

5 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect on the first Monday in December following the 2022 state
6 gubernatorial election.