

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Angoon · Coffman Cove · Craig · Edna Bay · Elfin Cove · Game Creek · Hollis · Hoonah · Kake · Kasaan · Klawock · Kupreanof · Naukati
Pelican · Petersburg · Point Baker · Port Alexander · Port Protection · Sitka · Tenakee Springs · Thorne Bay · Whale Pass

rep.jonathan.kreiss-tomkins@akleg.gov

Committees:
State Affairs, Co-Chair
Arctic Policy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Fisheries
Community and Regional Affairs



Juneau, Alaska 99801 (Jan. – April)
State Capitol, Room 411
907.465.3732

Sitka, Alaska 99835 (May – Dec.)
201 Katlian Street, Ste. 103
907.747.4665

Sectional Analysis | HB 150 ver. M

Section 1.

Amends AS 15.07.060 to require the director of elections to provide applicants with a ballot in their selected language and requires the division to give applicants an option to provide contact information in case of a defect in their ballot.

Section 2.

Adds AS 15.15.455, which requires the director to conduct risk-limiting audits of selected election results.

Section 3.

Repeals and reenacts AS 15.20.800, which requires the director to conduct all state elections by mail.

Section 4.

Adds AS 15.20.805, which requires the director to send an official ballot with a voter certificate, secrecy sleeve, and return envelope with prepaid postage to each registered voter. This section stipulates how the director must prepare all ballot material. This section requires the director to send ballots no later than 29 days preceding the election. This section also establishes the requirements for distributing special advance ballots and ballots in a language other than English.

Adds AS 15.20.810, which outlines the process by which a voter completes and returns a ballot, either at a vote center or ballot drop box. This section bars a ballot from being deposited at a vote center or ballot drop box by an intermediary who is paid by or who volunteers for a political party, political group, or business or organization to provide that service.

Adds AS 15.20.812, which establishes the ballot tracking and registration verification system, which is a free online system that's available through the division's website. Through the online system, a voter may track and confirm receipt of their ballot, determine whether their ballot has been partially or wholly counted, request a replacement ballot, or request a different primary ballot. The system will indicate why a ballot was not counted and, if a signature was missing or determined to not match the voter's signature, the system will indicate the process in which the voter may cure a signature discrepancy. This section also requires the director to ensure the design of the online system allows voters to access information through a mobile electronic device.

Adds AS 15.20.815, which establishes that a voter can obtain a replacement ballot and the process by which they may vote with such a ballot. This section also concerns how the director will receive and review a replacement ballot.

Adds AS 15.20.820, which establishes the time of vote-by-mail counting review. Not less than 10 days before an election, election supervisors, in the presence of ballot counting boards, begin reviewing voter certificates and counting ballots. Not later than the 15th day after the election, each ballot counting board must verify its ballot count.

Adds AS 15.20.823, which establishes the procedure for vote-by-mail counting review. This section also establishes the requirements for a ballot to be counted and the process for counting accepted ballots.

Adds AS 15.20.825, which defines the process for counting votes by former residents of a district and of ballots deposited outside of voters' election districts.

Adds AS 15.20.827, which establishes the procedure for curing uncounted ballots. If a voter returns their ballot and does not have a signature stored in the voter's registration record, the return envelope is missing a signature, or the signature on the envelope does not match the signature on record, the director shall, within 48 hours, and no later than two days after election day, send a notification by mail to the voter's physical address or their email. The notification must explain the need for verification and describe the process to cure the signature.

Adds AS 15.20.830, which establishes vote centers and provides for the days and times that vote centers must be open, the considerations that a director must make in selecting a location for a vote center, and the services that must be available to a voter at a vote center. This section states that a vote center must have access to the division's online ballot tracking and registration verification system and that the division must adopt an alternative procedure if electronic access isn't possible. This section includes a provision related to the process for providing a voter with a replacement

ballot. This section includes the responsibilities of the director related to the operation of a vote center.

Adds AS 15.20.832, establishing ballot tabulation centers as the locations where ballots are counted. This requires that ballot tabulation centers be established in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Nome, and other locations that the director considers necessary. This provision allows for a vote center to be used as a ballot tabulation center.

Adds AS 15.20.835, which concerns the use of drop boxes, their accessibility, and the determination of their locations. This section states that the division can, upon agreement, use a municipality's drop boxes. This section also concerns the process for the removal of ballots from a drop box.

Adds AS 15.20.840, which provides that individuals qualified or registered to vote are also able to cast a ballot in an election conducted by mail. This section also includes provisions regarding roles of election officials in registration and information that may be used on a voter's application.

Adds AS 15.20.843, which establishes the procedure for the preparation of ballots for primary elections and the determination of which ballot to send to a voter. This section includes provisions related to a voter's request of a primary election ballot in the case that they are seeking a ballot for a political party other than the party they are affiliated with.

Adds AS 15.20.845, which concerns the appointment of the vote-by-mail election board members and vote-by-mail ballot counting boards and the requirements of an election official. This section states the notices and publications that the division must arrange and the information that must be included. This section also directs the director to conduct a hand count of ballots from one randomly selected district and the process to address a discrepancy.

Adds AS 15.20.850, which addresses the appointment of and requirements for watchers, to be present at each vote center and each ballot tabulation center.

Adds AS 15.20.855, which outlines the review of ballot counts. It includes the process by which a recount can be requested and the process for conducting a recount.

Adds AS 15.20.890, which excludes sections of Title 15 that are not applicable to an election conducted by mail.

Adds AS 15.20.895, which broadens the definition of "voter" to include individuals that have voted in an election conducted by mail.

Section 5.

Amends AS 15.45.680 to replace "the polling place" with "a location where the election is held."

Section 6.

Amends AS 15.56.060(a) to include six additional subsections outlining actions that can be considered unlawful interference with an election. The additional actions of unlawful interference include ballot tampering, the use of fraudulent voting materials, falsely submitting materials, and selling or attempting to sell voting materials.

Section 7.

Amends AS 15.56.060 to add a subsection that defines a “return identification envelope.”

Section 8.

Establishes an effective date of January 1, 2022.