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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE

HB276 - Curing Rejected Absentee Ballot
Sectional Analysis

"An Act relating to curing a rejected absentee ballot; and providing for an effective date."

Section 1

Amends AS 15.20.203(i) requiring the director of the Division of Elections to notify each voter whose ballot was rejected a summary of the reason it was rejected and the process to cure a rejected absentee ballot. The director shall notify these voters no later than three days after their ballot has been rejected and in no event later than 10 days after the election if the ballot is rejected by the 10th day. This section allows the director, in addition to mailing this notice, to notify each voter by telephone, email, or text message.

Section 2

Amends AS 15.20.203(j) to require the director to make available for each absentee voter a free access method to see whether their ballot was counted and if not, the reason why it was not counted. The director shall make this information available immediately after the director receives the rejected ballot.

Section 3

Amends AS 15.20 to add a new section, 15.20.204. This section allows a voter to cure a rejected absentee ballot up to 10 days after the election if the ballot was rejected for failure to sign, accurately date, or provide valid proof of identification required in 15.20.081(f). If a voter's absentee ballot is rejected before Election Day, the voter may attest in a sworn affidavit that their ballot was rejected and vote through a questioned ballot. Cured absentee ballots shall be forwarded to the director immediately by the most expeditious service.

Section 4

Amends AS 15.20.220(b) to require the state review board to review and count properly cured absentee ballots under AS 15.20.204.

Section 5

Creates an effective date of June 1, 2022.