

**Session**  
State Capitol, Room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-4931

**Interim**  
1500 W. Benson, Room 218  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 269-0205

Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



**Chair:** Special Committee on Energy  
**Co-Chair:** Community & Regional Affairs  
**Vice-Chair:** Labor & Commerce Committee  
**Member:** Resources Committee  
**Member:** Ways & Means Spec. Committee

## REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE

### Sponsor Statement

#### House Bill 267 – Curing Rejected Absentee Ballot

HB267 requires the Division of Elections to notify and provide Alaskan voters the opportunity to verify their identity and correct errors on their absentee ballot that would otherwise cause the ballot to be rejected, such as a missing date or signature. This bill accomplishes this important goal while promoting the integrity of our voting process and strengthening faith and accountability in our election system.

In the November 2020 General Election, over 200,000 Alaskans voted through an absentee ballot, more than any other election in Alaska's history. During this same election, 1,118 absentee ballots were rejected and in many cases, due to minor yet disqualifying errors such as failure to sign or date a ballot. The option to vote absentee has long been utilized by Alaskan voters and has provided an opportunity for those serving overseas, out-of-state students, seniors, individuals with special needs, and all Alaskans an alternative to in-person Election Day voting.

HB267 helps to ensure the right to vote is not jeopardized due to minor errors on absentee ballots. It requires the Division of Election to notify voters if their ballot is at risk of being rejected and provide the opportunity to verify their identity and eligibility in order to "cure" their ballot. The Division may notify voters through mail, telephone, email, or text message and must do so no longer than three days after the ballot is rejected.

Ballot curing has been a component of state elections for decades and 24 other states require voters to be notified when there is a missing signature or signature discrepancy on their ballot and be granted an opportunity to correct it. This process does not allow voters to change their vote and is already practiced in local elections in Juneau and Anchorage.

HB267 ensures that eligible Alaskan voters who participate in our electoral system by voting absentee have the opportunity to remedy issues with their ballot and ensure that their vote is counted. Most notably, HB267 accomplishes this while upholding the integrity of our voting process and strengthening faith in our election system.