



To: Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee
From: Joelle Hall, President of the Alaska AFL-CIO
Date: March 2, 2022
Subject: Senate Bill 167 - ELECTIONS; FRAUD; BALLOTS

The Alaska AFL-CIO opposes SB 167 in its current form.

The Alaska AFL-CIO has the following comments on this legislation:

Defending Democracy: The Alaska AFL-CIO and its affiliates have prioritized the defense of democracy with a focus on voter enfranchisement. Democracy is the core of our society and attempts to disenfranchise voters through restrictive voting laws are unwarranted. We should be working on legislation that furthers our fair election system.

SB 167 includes a provision to reverse Permanent Fund Dividend Automatic Voter Registration (PFD AVR). As a reminder, Alaska's voters approved the PFD AVR ballot initiative in 2016. The Alaska AFL-CIO, along with our affiliates, supported the ballot initiative and continue to be supportive of automatic voter registration through this method. While we agree that our state voter file can benefit from minor reforms, and that the Alaska Legislature has the ability to pass legislation that allows voters more avenues to voluntarily cancel their voter registration, we do not agree that a complete reversal of the PFD AVR is the solution.

Some provisions of SB 167 are positive such as ballot curing, tracking, 4-year absentee voting applications, and pre-paid postage on mailed ballots. The Alaska AFL-CIO generally supports these measures as they make voting more accessible and secure. But as aforementioned, the reversal of Automatic Voter Registration is unnecessary and does nothing to enfranchise Alaskans. In fact, the adoption of PFD AVR received overwhelming support from the public at the ballot box. Because of this, we oppose SB 167.