



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI, CHAIR

Work Draft HCS for Senate Bill 64 (FIN)

34-LS0153\B

Election Reform

Sectional Analysis

Section 1: adds tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable identification for voter registration in person and removes hunting or fishing licenses from the list.

Section 2: adds tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable identification for voter registration by mail and removes hunting or fishing licenses list.

Section 3: established that the Division of Elections (Division) may only use Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) applicant information shared by the Department of Revenue for voter registration and voter roll maintenance and requires the Division to submit annual reports to the Legislature detailing how this data has been used for list maintenance.

Section 4: requires the Division of Elections (Division) to send a single forwardable notice as part of voter list maintenance and adds additional categories of voters to receive notices.

Section 5: is conforming language to reflect the changes made in Section 5.

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Section 7: establishes that, unless it is a voters' initial registration, applying for a Permanent Fund Dividend is not considered contacting the Division for purposes of the voter roll clean-up statutes.

Section 8: requires the Division to conduct a regular review of the voter register, hire an expert to conduct the review and submit a report to the Legislature, and establishes protections for confidential voter data that is being used in this review.

Section 9: requires the Division to notify the public and the Legislature of breaches of confidential elections data.

Section 10: creates a rural community liaison position in the Division.

Section 11: establishes that the true source of a contribution supporting or opposing a ballot measure or question is the entity making the contribution.

Section 12: repeals required specifications for voting booths.

Section 13: is a conforming section reflecting the repealed language in Section 16.

Section 14: adds tribal identification cards to the list of identifications voters may use at polling places, removes hunting and fishing licenses, utility bills, bank statements, government checks, and other government documents from the list.

Section 15: enacts new subsections related to unofficial results and ballot review data.

Subsection (b) requires the Division to release data for which ballots have been counted along with unofficial results.

Subsection (c) requires the Division to release data for count codes for absentee ballots each day ballots are reviewed.

Subsection (d) provides a definition of “count code.”

Section 16: repeals the requirement that poll worker compensation be set by regulation.

Section 17: requires that all absentee ballots include a postage-paid return envelope.

Section 18: adds tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable identification for a first-time voter who registered by mail or electronically who votes absentee and removes hunting or fishing licenses, current utility bills, bank statements, government checks, and other government documents from the list.

Section 19: requires all absentee by-mail ballots to be received within 10 days of the election.

Section 20: allows absentee voting officials to transmit cover sheets for absentee ballot packages electronically.

Section 21: requires absentee ballot review to begin 12 days before the election.

Section 22: provides that ballots that are properly cured under the new statute shall be counted during the state review board process if they were not previously counted.

Section 23: requires the director to establish an online ballot-tracking system.

Section 24: allows for curing mistakes on absentee ballots.

- Subsection (a) requires the division to notify voters if there is no signature on the envelope or if the voter did not provide a sufficient identifier of the process to cure their ballot.
- Subsection (b) requires that these notices must explain the need for a signature for verification purposes and include a form for the voter to provide their signature and copy of the identification.
- Subsection (c) provides that a ballot may be cured and counted if the voter returns the form, confirms that they did in fact vote, and provides a signature and copy of their identification.
- Subsection (d) provides that a ballot shall not be counted, and the director will refer the matter to the attorney general for investigation, if the voter indicates they did not in fact vote the ballot.

Section 25: clarifies that the return postage for absentee by-mail ballots required by Section 26 does not violate the prohibition on giving a thing of value in exchange for a person voting.

Section 26: clarifies that intentionally opening or tampering with ballot envelopes without the permission of the Division and hacking or altering election machinery is covered by the crime of unlawful interference with an election.

Section 27: provides that an election official who knowingly discloses election results before the polls close commits the crime of election official misconduct in the first degree.

Section 28: requires the Department of Revenue to share certain information monthly concerning PFD applications to the Division for the purpose of voter registration and voter roll maintenance.

Section 29: requires the Department of Revenue to develop security measures to protect that data being shared under Section 51.

Section 30: requires the division to provide a report to the legislature by the first day of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature with recommendations for expanding early voting in rural communities and low-income neighborhoods.

Section 31: states that Sections 25-27 only applies to offenses committed after the effective date of this act.

Section 32: is a transitional section allowing the Division to adopt regulations to implement provisions of this bill before the effective dates of those provisions.

Section 33: is a transitional section allowing the Division begin the procurement process regulations to implement provisions of this bill before the effective dates of those provisions.

Section 34: makes sections 23 and 24 conditional on those two sections both taking effect.

Section 35: provides an effective date of January 1, 2027 for Section 11.

Section 36: provides an immediate effective date for transitional sections 32 and 33.

Section 37: provides a August 31, 2026 effective date for the remainder of the bill.