



SB 289
(34-GS1548\A)
ELECTIONS
Sectional Analysis

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

Section 2: adds tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable identification for in-person registration and removes hunting and fishing from the list.

Section 3: establishes that the Division of Elections may use Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) applicant information shared by the Department of Revenue only 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 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 4.

Section 6: is conforming language to reflect the changes made in Section 4. It changes the time frame for sending a notice from the fourth calendar year to 34 months.

Section 7: establishes that registering to vote through a Permanent Fund application 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 and to hire an expert to conduct the review and submit a report to the legislature. It adds restrictions to sharing information made confidential under AS 15.07.195.

Section 9: requires the division to notify the public and the Legislature of breaches of confidential elections data within certain timeframes.

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: adds a requirement to include a space on the general election ballot in a presidential year for a Presidential and Vice-President write-in.

Section 13: repeals required specifications for voting booths.

Section 14: is a conforming section reflecting the repealed language in Section 13.

Section 15: adds tribal identification cards of the list of identifications voters may use at polling places, removes hunting and fishing licenses, a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document from the list.

Section 16: is conforming language to reflect the changes made in Section 12.

Section 17: 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 and question ballots each day ballots are reviewed.
- Subsection (d) provides a definition of “count code”.

Section 18: repeals the requirement that election worker compensation be set by regulation.

Section 19: requires that all absentee ballots include a postage-paid return envelope. It also requires that the certificate may not identify a voter’s party affiliation.

Section 20: 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 and fishing licenses, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document from the list.

Section 21: requires all absentee by-mail ballots to be received within 10 days of the election.

Section 22: allows absentee voting officials to transmit cover sheets for absentee ballots packages electronically

Section 23: requires absentee ballot review to begin 12 days before the election.

Section 24: requires the district absentee ballot counting board to examine whether the signature on the certificate is consistent with the voter’s signature in voter registration records.

Section 25: adds tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable identification for a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or fax or other electronic identification, and removes a hunting or fishing license, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document, from the list.

Section 26: adds that an absentee ballot of a first-time absentee voter whose signature is inconsistent with the voter’s signature in the voter registration records may not be counted.

Section 27: requires the use of a signature verification process that includes signature comparison software.

Section 28: requires that a questioned ballot may not be counted if the voter did not provide the correct ID including the kinds of ID listed in 52.U.S.C. 21083(b)(2)(A).

Section 29: adds that absentee ballots properly cured that have not been counted by a district counting board shall be counted by the state review board.

Section 30: New AS 15.20.221 requires the division to establish an online ballot tracking system to allow a voter to track the status of their absentee by-mail ballot and notification of the process to cure the lack of signature and verify the voters identity and notification of the reason the voter’s ballot was not counted, if the ballot was not counted.

Section 31: New AS 15.20.222 provides ballot curing for absentee ballots. It requires the division to notify voters if the signature on the certificate does not match the signature on the envelope, 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.

Section 32: requires a write-in candidate running for the office of President of the United States to certify the information required.

Section 33: clarifies that the return postage for absentee by-mail ballots required by Section 19 does not violate the prohibition on giving a thing of value in exchange for a person voting.

Section 34: 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 and 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 36: requires the Department of Revenue to share certain information concerning PFD applications to the division for the purpose of voter registration and voter roll maintenance.

Section 37: requires the Department of Revenue to develop security measures to protect that data begin shared under Section 36.

Section 38: requires the division to provide a report to the Legislature by the first day of the First Regular Session of the Thirty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature with recommendations for expanding early voting in rural communities and low-income neighborhoods.

Section 39: makes sections amended by Section 33 and 34 apply on or after the effective date of sections 33-35.

Section 40: allows the division to adopt necessary regulations.

Section 42: makes the effective date for Section 11, January 1, 2027.