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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Bldg. Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to improve election efficiency and integrity and to increase the flexibility of the Alaska Division of Elections in the administration of elections in the State. This bill will improve timelines, logistics, and processes for the public and the division.

The Alaska Division of Elections strives to ensure the integrity and transparency of elections. Nevertheless, many Alaskans have legitimate concerns about the reliability of elections due to outdated and impractical provisions of our election code. This bill aims to reform certain aspects of the Alaska election code in order to bolster the public's trust in our election system.

To that end, this bill will repeal provisions of Ballot Measure No. 1 from 2016 that authorized voters to register as part of their permanent fund dividend application. It will close early voting five days prior to Election Day and will authorize the Division to conduct elections by mail for communities with a population of 750 or less. It provides for postage-paid return envelopes for absentee ballots, requires absentee ballots to be received by the Division on or before Election Day, and authorizes the counting of absentee ballots to begin sooner. The bill will give the Division greater flexibility in adjusting the pay of election workers, setting the standards for voting booths, and in printing and distributing election pamphlets. It will increase the terms of regional school board members while decreasing the frequency of regional school board elections.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, written in a cursive style.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor