

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 70
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	1/24/2025

Identifier: 0548-OOG-DOE-01-20-25

Department: Office of the Governor

Title: SCHOOL&ELECTION BDS; VOTING; ELECTIONS

Appropriation: Elections

Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Allocation: Elections

Requester: Governor

OMB Component Number: 21

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services	(67.1)		(67.1)	(67.1)	(67.1)	(67.1)	(67.1)
Travel							
Services	(247.4)		(247.4)	(147.4)	(147.4)	(147.4)	(147.4)
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	(314.5)	0.0	(314.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	(314.5)		(314.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)
Total	(314.5)	0.0	(314.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)	(214.5)

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No

(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes

If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/26

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:

Carol Beecher, Director

Division:

Division of Elections

Approved By:

Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Services Director

Agency:

Office of the Governor

Phone:

(907)465-4611

Date:

01/20/2025 04:00 PM

Date:

01/20/25

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill proposes several changes to election laws. Concerning the specific changes that result in fiscal impacts, the bill:

- Amends several sections under AS 14.08 relating to Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) elections to change REAA elections from being held every year to being held every other year. For regional school board members, terms of office would change from one, two, and three-year terms to staggered four-year terms.
- Repeals the statutory provisions relating to automatic voter registration (AVR) through the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application process.
- Amends AS 15.20.030 relating to the preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material to provide for postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for absentee ballots.
- Amends AS 15.20.800(a) relating to voting by mail by adding a new paragraph to allow the director to conduct an election by mail for any community with a population of 750 or less.
- Amends AS 15.20.064(a) relating to early voting to end early voting five days before Election Day.
- Amends AS 15.58.010 relating to the official election pamphlet (OEP) to delete the requirement that a copy of the OEP be mailed to every voter household.

It is expected that passage of this bill will have the following Unrestricted General Fund fiscal impacts on the Division of Elections (division):

Moving REAA elections from each year to every other year. REAA elections costs would be reduced by 50 percent.

	Current Biennial	New Biennial	Biennial (Savings)/Cost
Personal Services REAA Election Workers/polling place payments	\$ 163.2	\$ 81.6	(\$ 81.6)
Contractual Services REAA Election Ballot Printing, Postage	<u>\$ 116.5</u>	<u>\$ 58.2</u>	<u>(\$ 58.2)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 279.7	\$ 139.8	(\$139.8)

*Note: Enactment would require that REAA Elections be added to the operating appropriations bill language section for appropriation smoothing should be **half of the above biennial amount or (\$69.9)**.*

	Current Annual	Annual (Savings)/Cost
Eliminating the PFD-Automatic Voter Registration		
Contractual Services	<u>\$ 101.5</u>	<u>(\$ 0.0)</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	\$ 101.5	(\$ 0.0)

Note: The division never received incremental funding for PFD-AVR; all costs were absorbed so no budgetary savings are attributed to this revision.

Requiring postage paid envelopes for all absentee ballots in all districts. The number of absentee vote envelopes is based on 2024 numbers.

	Biennial (Savings)/Cost
Primary Election: 9,504 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope x two envelopes	\$ 13.9
General Election 51,212 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope x two envelopes	<u>\$ 74.9</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	\$ 88.8

*Note: Primary and General Elections costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment in the language section should be **half this amount or \$44.4**.*

(continued on page 3)

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. LL 0548

Analysis

(continued from page 2)

Ending early voting five days before Election Day. The number of days temporary staff would be needed to work would be reduced, thereby resulting in personal services cost savings estimated at \$52.6.

	Biennial (Savings)/Cost
Election Year Primary/General Elections Postage	<u>(\$ 52.6)</u>
TOTAL Personal Services	(\$ 52.6)

*Note: Primary and General Elections costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the decrement in the language section should be **half this amount or (\$26.3)**.*

Conducting an election by mail for any community with a population of 750 or less. If this provision and the previous one are enacted, all registered voters in affected communities may be mailed primary and general election ballots with postage paid return envelopes. The number of registered voters in these communities is 39,884.

	Biennial (Savings)/Cost
Election Year Primary/General Elections Postage	\$ 119.4
Voter Education and Outreach for new process	(one-time item) <u>\$ 200.0</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	\$ 319.4

*Note: Primary and General Elections costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment in the language section should be **half this amount: \$159.7 for the first two years and \$59.7 for all other years.***

Removing the requirement to mail the Official Election Pamphlet (OEP) to every voter household. The OEP will be available online. This savings estimate assumes no OEPs are printed.

	Biennial (Savings)/Cost
OEP Printing Cost (2024 cost)	(\$ 750.4)
OEP Postage Cost (2024 cost)	<u>(\$ 94.4)</u>
TOTAL Contractual Services	(\$ 844.8)

*Note: Primary and General Elections costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the decrement in language section should be **half this amount or (\$422.4)**.*

Based on the above estimations, the fiscal impact of passage of this bill would be a **total annual UGF savings of (\$314.5) in FY2026 and FY2027, and (\$214.5) in FY2028 onward.**