



REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

webpage: www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS CSHB 178

"Election Practices and Procedures"

SECTION 1

Adds, under "Qualifications for overseas voters", a child whose parents lived in Alaska, prior to living overseas, will be granted the opportunity to register to vote absentee.

SECTION 2,5,7,9, 11& 13

Removes the witnessing requirement for absentee ballots.

SECTION 3

Adds the designation of a municipal clerk as an absentee voting official.

SECTION 4 & 6.

Adds that absentee ballots are available in regional offices 22 days before the election.

SECTION 7.

Adds a security waiver for electronic submission of an absentee ballot and removes witnessing requirement.

SECTION 8

Adds "electronic mail" to the definition of electronic transmission as well as any other form of electronic transmission, approved by the director and identified in regulation, for an absentee ballot.

SECTION 9.

Removes (h) as this pertains to the 15 day post election receipt of an absentee ballot.

SECTION 10.

Provides that those who are eligible to receive an absentee specialty ballot would be captured under the same provisions as UOCAVA voters with regarding receipt of ballot: that they will receive a ballot 45 days prior to the election.

Adds “electronic mail” to acceptable addresses for absentee voter information and adds that the voter must date the ballot. Current statute has the witness date the ballot. CSHB 178 removes the witnessing requirement.

SECTION 12:

Removes language referencing the receipt of a ballot 15 days post election as it is repealed in this legislation and changed to 10 days.

SECTION 15:

Moves Primary by two weeks, from the fourth, to the second Tuesday in August.

SECTION 16:

Changes the time frame from 48 to 52 days for the withdrawal of a candidate’s name from the primary ballot.

SECTION 17:

Changes the timeframe of 50 to 54 for replacement by party petition if an incumbent candidate for renomination dies or is otherwise ineligible to remain on ballot.

SECTION 17 & 18:

Changes the timeframe of candidate name withdrawal from 48 days to 52 days for primary election.

SECTION 19 & 20:

Changes the date from 48 days to 64 days prior to the general election, in which a vacancy (of an individual nominated at the primary election) can be filled by party petition for the general election.

SECTION 21:

In the event of death of a party petition replacement, 64 or more days prior to the general election, the name will not be placed on the ballot.

SECTION 22:

Changes the date of name withdrawal of judges to 64 days before the general election.

SECTION 23:

Adds that municipal clerk may serve as an absentee voting official for the purposes of distributing absentee ballots.

SECTION 24.

Repeals 15.20.082, Specialty absentee ballots.

Repeals the provision that the absentee ballot application is valid for the next two general elections (15.20.081(i)).

Repeals the allowance for Military and Overseas absentee ballots to be received 15 days post Election Day (15.20.081(h)).

Repeals the provision pertaining to the conduct of a witness (15.20.160).

SECTION 25.

Establishes the effective date of January 1, 2012.