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SB 25 – Sectional Analysis

“An Act relating to information on judicial officers seeking retention in office.”

Section 1: Amends AS 15.58.030(g)

This section permits a justice or judge seeking retention to file residency status, military service, professional activities, and a statement supporting their candidacy so long as it does not exceed 300 words.

Section 2: Amends AS 15.58.050

This section provides for material to be filed by the judicial council for state election pamphlets and sets a 1,200-word limit for the following information. It distinguishes between the information required for justices or judges seeking retention for the first time versus those seeking continued retention.

- 1) Superior or district court judges must have statements of professional philosophy less than 150 words, educational background, recent professional experience and positions, organizational affiliations, ratings by other legal system personnel, number of decisions that were appealed and the outcomes, any disciplinary proceedings, and a self-assessment relating to judicial performance.
- 2) Supreme court justices or court of appeals judges must file the same information as superior court judges (mentioned above) excepting the part about the number of decisions they wrote that were appealed.
- 3) Justices or judges standing for retention for the first time must provide a description of previous political or government positions, their areas of legal practice prior to appointment, and the types of clients they represented as a lawyer.

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