

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Rep. Ashley Carrick
State Capitol, Room 406
907-465-4976
Rep.Ashley.Carrick@akleg.gov

Official Business

CSHB 43 Sectional Analysis 34-LS0231I

“An Act relating to elections.”

Section 1 Removes language from AS 15.05.010 requiring a qualified voter to register before an election as stipulated in AS 15.07.

Section 2 Clarifies the residency requirements to define a residence as a place where a voter has a reasonable and articulable plan to return to whenever they are absent and provides that the presumption that a voter’s registered address is correct may be rebutted by evidence that the voter has established residency at a different location.

Section 3 Adds two subsections related to voter registration.

- Subsection (g) allows voters to designate a language to receive election materials in from the languages that the Division of Elections (Division) is required to provide language assistance in.
- Subsection (h) requires voters registering within 30 days of the election to confirm that they have resided in their house district since at least 30 days before the election.

Section 4 Clarifies that electronic signatures are valid of the voter or a person acting with power of attorney on behalf of the voter.

Section 5 Amends AS 15.07.070(c) by adding that an applicant whose registration does not meet the requirements for placement on the master register for the next election may vote an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot in that election.

Section 6 Amends AS 15.07.070(d) to stipulate that a qualified voter who registers within 30 days before or on the day of an election may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs or questioned ballot at that election. It removes the language making the person ineligible to vote at that election and restricts the division from rejecting the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registered within 30 days of election or on the day of an election on the grounds the voter is not on an official registration list.

Section 7 Amends AS 15.07.070(h) requiring the voter’s certificate used for voting an absentee inperson or questioned ballot to include instructions that a person registering to vote using the voter’s certificate and wishing to declare the person’s affiliation should complete the affiliation section on the certificate. This subsection is also amended to include special needs ballots in this requirement.

Section 8 Amends AS 15.07.090(b) to stipulate that a person who has reregistered under this subsection may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot until the next election occurs, at least 30 days after

re-registration. The division may not reject the absentee in person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who reregisters within 30 days before election day because the voter's name is not on the official registration list.

Section 9 Amends AS 15.07.090(c) to stipulate that if a voter's request to transfer registration is made within 30 days before or on election day, that voter may vote only in absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot. The division may not reject the ballot of a voter who satisfies these requirements on the basis that they are not on the official registration list for the election. A voter must reside in the new house district for at least 30 days to vote a ballot for that district.

Section 10 Amends AS 15.07.090(d) to stipulate that a qualified voter who registers within 30 days of election and for whom no evidence of registration in the precinct can be found may only vote an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot and that the division may not reject said ballot on the grounds the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.

Section 11 Requires the Division to send a single forwardable notice as part of voter list maintenance and adds additional categories of voters to receive notices.

Section 12 Amends AS 15.07.130(e) to rename "absentee voting stations" to "early voting stations."

Section 13 Requires the director to develop a process for voters to cancel their registrations and require that instructions for how to cancel one's registration be prominently posted at polling places.

Section 14 Requires the division to employ five rural community liaisons, one per election region.

Section 15 Repeals the requirement for the Alaska Public Offices Commission to have offices in every senate district.

Sections 16 and 17 Amend AS 15.15.060(a) and (b) relating to polling places, voting booths, and supplies by removing the size and number specifications for voting booths.

Section 18 Requires that notices be posted informing voters of language assistance available at precincts where it is required by federal law.

Section 19 Codifies the procedure for when a person who requested an absentee ballot attempts to vote in person.

Section 20 Clarifying that the division must include results for all rank levels on the precinct results.

Section 21 Requires the direct to release unofficial results with an updated rank choice tabulation.

Section 22 Allows the director to increase poll worker pay, and specifies that pay decreases must be done through regulation.

Section 23 Allows candidates and ballot proposition campaigns to observe the State Review Board process.

Section 24 Allows the Division to adopt additional risk limiting audit procedures as part of the State Review Board process.

Section 25 Amends AS 15.20.030 to include a postage-paid return envelope with the mail-in ballot and materials. It also adds space for recording the date of the voter's signature declaring the person is a qualified voter. This

section prohibits the identification of a voter's party affiliation on the ballot envelope and also removes reference to the requirement of witness signatures.

Section 26 Amends AS 15.20.045 to rename absentee voting stations as early voting stations and stipulates that the director shall provide locations designated as early voting stations with the appropriate ballots at least 30 days before the election, in line with extending early voting options to 30 days before an election.

Section 27 Amends AS 15.20.050 with conforming language in line with renaming absentee voting stations as early voting stations.

Section 28 Amends AS 15.20.061 extending the period that a qualified voter may apply in person for an absentee ballot from the 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election to on or after the 20th day.

Section 29 Amends AS 15.20.064(a) permits a qualified voter who meets the requirements set out in this section to vote 20 days before an election or on election day.

Section 30 Amends AS 15.20.064 to add a stipulation permitting a voter who fails to meet the voter verification requirements of this section to vote an absentee ballot.

Section 31 Amends AS 15.20.072(b) extending the time from 15 days to 30 days in which a voter, through a representative, requests a special needs ballot. Also provides conforming language that aligns AS 15.20.072(b) with renaming "absentee voting station" as "early voting station" for uniformity.

Section 32 Provides that special needs ballots may not be rejected because of errors made by poll workers or representatives.

Section 33 Amends AS 15.20.081(d) to eliminate the witness requirement for absentee ballots.

Section 34 States that a ballot received after the day of the election that is not postmarked or postmarked after the election may be counted if it is marked with a United States Postal Service tracking barcode that indicates it was mailed on or before the day of the election.

Section 35 Allows voters to request by-mail ballots in any language for which the division is required to provide language assistance by federal law.

Section 36 Amends AS 15.20.201(a) to require the election supervisor to begin reviewing voter certificates and envelopes for absentee ballots ten days before election day, which is three days earlier than the current seven days in law. This section also adds the requirement that an absentee ballot may not be counted until the voter certificate has been reviewed.

Section 37 Requires the director to develop a cybersecurity program to defend the voter registration records kept by the division.

Section 38 Amends AS 15.20.203(b) to require the election board to reject an absentee ballot if the voter has not signed the certificate, if the ballot envelope and certificate are delivered, postmarked, or has a tracking barcode showing it was mailed after election day. This section removes the requirement of a witness signature on the certificate.

Section 39 Amends AS 15.20.220(b) to add absentee ballots properly cured to the list of ballots to be reviewed by the state review board.

Section 40 Adds a new subsection that creates a process for curing ballots that were rejected because of a missing signature or insufficient voter identification. It requires the Division of Elections to make a reasonable effort to contact those voters, explain the ballot deficiency, and explain how to fix the deficiency by the required deadline. A voter with a notice of deficiency must confirm they sent in the ballot and provide the required identification within 14 days after the election to have their ballot counted. It also states that if a voter says they didn't send in a ballot, the election office will send that information to the attorney general.

Section 41 Requires that the director provide secure ballot drop boxes at every DOE office and every community with 20,000 residents.

Section 42 Amends AS 15.56.030(d), which concerns the definition of "other valuable thing" about unlawful interference with voting. It clarifies that the definition does not include postage-paid return envelopes required in AS 15.20.030.

Section 43 Amends AS 15.58.030(h), which pertains to the publication of candidate information on the division's website. The amendment requires the lieutenant governor to publish a candidate's photograph and statement on the website at least 30 days before an election, rather than 15 days, aligning with extending the early voting period.

Section 44 Requires the director to develop a cybersecurity program to defend the voter registration records kept by the division.

Section 45 Codifies the settlement in ACLU of Alaska v. State of Alaska related to campaign signs along state highways.

Section 46 Conforming language for section 15 relating to the repeal of the requirement that APOC have offices in each senate district.

Section 47 Amends AS 29.20.380(c), which permits the municipal clerk to act as an absentee voting official under AS 15.20.045(c), with conforming language changing "absentee voting station" to "early voting station" under AS 15.20.045(b).

Section 48 Amends AS 29.26.050 by adding a new subsection to allow people who have lived in a town for at least 30 days, but have not yet registered to vote there, may vote with an absentee, special needs, or questioned ballot in that election. The municipality may not reject the absentee, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter registered within 30 days before or on the day of an election based on the voter not being on the official registration list for the election. This section aligns with allowing voters to register to vote within 30 days of an election.

Section 49 Removes a requirement that certain municipal candidates file their public official financial disclosure twice.

Section 50 Repeals AS 29.26.050(a)(3), which permitted a person to vote in person at a municipal election only if they had registered to vote in state elections at a residence address within a municipality at least 30 days before the election at which the person seeks to vote.

Section 51 Section 42 of this act applies to offenses committed on or after the effective date of that section.

Section 52 Effective date: Jan 1, 2026