



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI, CHAIR

Senate Bill 64

Election Reform

Summary of Changes SB 64 Version I to CS SB 64 (STA) Version W

The following provisions were **removed** from the bill:

- All provisions allowing voters to register within 30 days of an election.
- Section 3 relating to preregistration of minors.
- Section 20 relating to questioning of a voter who requested an absentee ballot.
- Section 30 related to the timing of scanning ballots.
- Section 5 and Section 29 subsection (n) related to receiving election materials in other languages.

The following provisions from Senate Bill 70, introduced by the Senate Rules Committee by request of the governor, were **added** to this bill:

- Repealing the requirement that poll worker compensation be set by regulation.
- Allowing cover sheets for absentee ballot packets to be submitted electronically.
- Repealing the requirement for specific dimensions for voting booths.
- Beginning absentee ballot review 12 days before Election Day. The governor originally proposed having review begin 10 days before Election Day, but the Senate State Affairs Committee amended this provision to 12 days.
- Repealing the requirement that absentee ballots that arrive after the statutory deadline be counted during a recount.
- Adding becoming ineligible for a Permanent Fund Dividend to the list of criteria that triggers a voter roll clean-up notice. This provision was added to the criteria already in SB 64.

The following provisions were **added** to the bill:

- In the various statutes related to identification required for voting and registering to vote, tribal identification cards are added to the list of acceptable identification and hunting and fishing licenses are removed from the list. Where current utility bills, banks statements, paychecks, government checks, or other documents are allowed as identification it is clarified that these documents must be issued in the last 90 days.

- Section 9 clarifying that registering to vote through a Permanent Fund Dividend is not considered contacting the Division of Elections (Division) for purposes of the voter roll clean-up process.
- Section 45 clarifying that opening or tampering with a sealed ballot envelope without permission or breaching or hacking a voting machine is considered unlawful interference with an election. This provision was originally included in Senate Bill 7 by Senator Shower in the 33rd Legislature.
- Section 46 adding disclosing the results of an election before the polls close to the crime of election official misconduct in the first degree. This provision was originally included in Senate Bill 7 by Senator Shower in the 33rd Legislature.
- Section 15 clarifying that for contributions made to influence the results of ballot measures or questions that the entity making the contribution is considered the true source of the contribution.
- Section 29 setting the deadline for all absentee ballots to be received at 10 days following the election. Under current law, ballots being returned from outside the United States may be received up to 15 days after the election.
- Section 1 subsection (9) and section 25 clarifying that voters will have their ballot counted for the races they are still eligible to vote in if they vote in a district which includes their former voting residence.
- In Section 6 subsection (4) and Section 10 subsections (i)-(l) additional voter roll cleanup procedures were added to require notices be sent to voters whose permanent mailing address in Division records has been outside of Alaska for at least two years. These notices will give the voters the opportunity to confirm they are still Alaska residents, cancel their registration, or move to federal only status.
- In Section 10 the following subsections were added:
 - Subsection (g) requires the Division to adopt regulations to conduct a review of the voter register.
 - Subsection (h) requires the Division to consult with an expert to conduct a review of the voter register and to submit a report to the Legislature.

The following **changes** were made to existing provisions in the bill:

- In Section 21 related to unofficial election results, details of rejected ballots were removed from the list data that must be reported when unofficial results are released.
- In Section 23 related to the state review board process, existing statutory language suggesting that observers assist with the review is removed and ballot question campaigns are added to the list of campaigns who may have observers.
- In Section 40 related to ballot drop boxes, the new statute is renumbered to clarify these drop boxes will be available for all elections, the requirement for drop boxes outside of Division offices is removed, and municipalities are authorized to provide drop boxes under regulations adopted by the Division.
- In Section 44 related to cybersecurity, the lieutenant governor is given the responsibility for developing a cybersecurity program instead of the director.
- In Section 11, language is added clarifying that the process for a voter to cancel their registration must require the voter to verify their identity.

- In Section 20, language is added clarifying that precincts that hand count results only need to count the first-choice rankings.
- In Section 38 the existing ballot tracking language is replaced with provisions that can be implemented by the Division.
- In Section 1 clarifications are made to the definition of residency.