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**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 43(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SCHRAGE, Edgmon, Burke, Holland, Galvin, Himschoot

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

"An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voter registration; relating to election administration; relating to the crime of unlawful interference with voting; relating to campaign signs; relating to the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to public official financial disclosures; and providing for an effective date."

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

\* **Section 1.** AS 15.05.010 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.05.010. Voter qualification.** A person may vote at any election who

(1) is a citizen of the United States;

(2) is 18 years of age or older;

(3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and

(4) has registered [BEFORE THE ELECTION] as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.05.020 is amended to read:

1           **Sec. 15.05.020. Rules for determining residence of voter.** For the purpose of  
2 determining residence for voting, the place of residence is governed by the following  
3 rules:

4           (1) A person may not be considered to have gained a residence solely  
5 by reason of presence nor may a person lose it solely by reason of absence while in the  
6 civil or military service of this state or of the United States or of absence because of  
7 marriage to a person engaged in the civil or military service of this state or the United  
8 States, while a student at an institution of learning, while in an institution or asylum at  
9 public expense, while confined in public prison, while engaged in the navigation of  
10 waters of this state or the United States or of the high seas, while residing on [UPON]  
11 an Indian or military reservation, or while residing in the Alaska Pioneers' Home or  
12 the Alaska Veterans' Home.

13           (2) The residence of a person is that place in which the person's  
14 **physical** habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever absent, the person has **an**  
15 **articulable and reasonable plan** [THE INTENTION] to return. If a person resides in  
16 one place, but does business in another, the former is the person's place of residence.  
17 Temporary work sites do not constitute a dwelling place.

18           (3) [A CHANGE OF RESIDENCE IS MADE ONLY BY THE ACT  
19 OF REMOVAL JOINED WITH THE INTENT TO REMAIN IN ANOTHER  
20 PLACE.] There can only be one residence.

21           (4) A person does not lose residence if the person leaves home and  
22 goes to another country, state, or place in this state for temporary purposes only and  
23 with the intent of returning **to the person's residence**.

24           (5) A person does not gain residence in any place to which the person  
25 comes without the present intention to establish a permanent dwelling at that place.

26           (6) A person loses residence in this state if the person **establishes**  
27 **residence in another state or** votes in another state's election, either in person or by  
28 absentee ballot, and will not be eligible to vote in this state until again qualifying  
29 under AS 15.05.010.

30           (7) The term of residence is computed by including the day on which  
31 the person's residence begins and excluding the day of election.

(8) The address of a voter as it appears on the official voter registration record is presumptive evidence of the person's voting residence. This presumption is negated [ONLY] if the voter notifies the director in writing of a change of voting residence. When a voter's qualification is questioned under AS 15.15.210 or challenged in accordance with the procedure adopted in regulation under AS 15.20.215, the presumption may be rebutted by providing evidence to the division that the voter has established residence in another state or place in this state or evidence that the voter is not a resident under (2) - (7) of this section.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(g) The division shall provide an applicant the opportunity to designate, from among the written languages in which the division is required to print election materials under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, the language in which the applicant prefers to receive ballots and other election materials printed for an election. The division shall provide the applicant with ballots and election materials in the applicant's designated language unless the applicant designates a language in which the division is not required to print ballots and election materials. The division shall notify an applicant when ballots and election materials printed in the designated language are not available and allow the applicant another opportunity to designate a language under this subsection. The division shall provide an applicant with ballots and election materials in the designated language until the earlier of the date that

(1) the applicant's voter registration is inactivated or cancelled; or

(2) the division is no longer required under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, to print ballots and election materials in the designated language.

(h) An applicant who requests registration within 30 days before an election shall supply a declaration stating whether the applicant established residency at least 30 days before the date of the election in

(1) the state;

(2) the house district in which the applicant seeks to vote at the election.

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.070(b) is amended to read:

(b) To register by mail or by facsimile, scanning, or other electronic

transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, the director, the area election supervisor, or a voter registration agency shall furnish, at no cost to the voter, forms prepared by the director on which the registration information required under AS 15.07.060 shall be inserted by the voter, by a person on behalf of the voter if that person is designated to act on behalf of the voter in a power of attorney, or by a person on behalf of the voter if the voter is physically incapacitated. **The director shall accept the electronic signature of the voter or a person acting on behalf of the voter.** The director may require proof of identification of the applicant as required by regulations adopted by the director under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act). Upon receipt and approval of the completed registration forms, the director or the election supervisor shall forward to the voter an acknowledgment, and the voter's name shall immediately be placed on the master register. If the registration is denied, the voter shall immediately be informed in writing that registration was denied and the reason for denial. When identifying information has been provided by the voter as required by this chapter, the election supervisor shall forward to the voter a registration card.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 15.07.070(c) is amended to read:

(c) The names of persons submitting completed registration forms by mail that are postmarked at least 30 days before the next election, or submitting completed registration forms by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 that are received at least 30 days before the next election, shall be placed on the official registration list for that election. If a registration form received by mail less than 30 days before an election does not have a legible and dated postmark, the name of the person submitting the form shall be placed on the official registration list for that election if the form was signed and dated by the person at least 30 days before the election and if the form is received by the director or election supervisor at least 25 days before the election. The name of a person submitting a completed registration form by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission that does not meet the applicable requirements of this subsection may not be placed on the official registration list for that election but shall be placed on the master register after that election. **A person submitting a completed registration form that does**

**not meet the requirements of this subsection for placement on the master register for the next election but who complies with AS 15.07.060(h) may vote an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot at that election.**

\* Sec. 6. AS 15.07.070(d) is amended to read:

(d) Qualified voters may register in person before a registration official or through a voter registration agency at any time throughout the year. **A qualified voter who registers** [, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON REGISTERING] within 30 days **before or on the day of an election may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot** [PRECEDING AN ELECTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE] at that election. **The division may not reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registers within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.** Upon receipt and approval of the registration forms, the director or the election supervisor shall forward to the voter an acknowledgment in the form of a registration card, and the voter's name shall immediately be placed on the master register. Names of persons registering 30 or more days before an election shall be placed on the official registration list for that election.

\* Sec. 7. AS 15.07.070(h) is amended to read:

(h) The director shall design the form of the voter's certificate appearing on the envelope that is used for voting an absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot so that all information required for registration by AS 15.07.060(a) may be obtained from a voter who votes an absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot. **The form must include the instruction that a person registering to vote using the voter's certificate who wishes to declare the person's affiliation should complete the affiliation section on the certificate.** If the voter voting an absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot has completed all information on the voter registration portion of the absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot voter's certificate, the director shall place the name of the voter on the official registration list.

\* Sec. 8. AS 15.07.090(b) is amended to read:

(b) A voter shall reregister if the voter's registration is cancelled as provided in

AS 15.07.130. A person reregistering under this subsection may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot until [THE REREGISTRATION IS EFFECTIVE FOR] the next election that occurs at least 30 days after the date of reregistration. The division may not reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who reregisters within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.

\* Sec. 9. AS 15.07.090(c) is amended to read:

(c) The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one precinct to another within a house district when requested by the voter. If a [THE] request is [SHALL BE] made within 30 [OR MORE] days before [THE] election day or on election day, a person transferring registration to a new precinct may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot. The division may not reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who transfers registration within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.

The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one house district to another when requested by the voter. The voter must reside in the new house district for at least 30 days in order to vote a ballot for that district.

\* Sec. 10. AS 15.07.090(d) is amended to read:

(d) A person who claims to be a registered voter, but for whom no evidence of registration in the precinct can be found, may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot. The division may not reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registers within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election [SHALL BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THAT OF A QUESTIONED VOTER AND THE BALLOT SHALL BE TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER. THE BALLOT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A "QUESTIONED BALLOT" AND SHALL BE SO DESIGNATED. THE DIRECTOR OR THE DIRECTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE VOTER IS

REGISTERED IN THE HOUSE DISTRICT BEFORE COUNTING THE BALLOT.  
A VOTER WHO HAS FAILED TO OBTAIN A TRANSFER AS PROVIDED IN (c)  
OF THIS SECTION SHALL VOTE A "QUESTIONED BALLOT" IN THE  
PRECINCT IN WHICH THE VOTER RESIDES].

\* **Sec. 11.** AS 15.07.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) Periodically, at times of the director's choosing, but **not** [NO] less frequently than in January of each calendar year, the director shall examine the master register maintained under AS 15.07.120 and shall send, by **forwardable** [NONFORWARDABLE] mail to the voter's registration mailing address, **and to the voter's electronic mail address, if available**, a notice requesting address confirmation or correction. **The notice must explain that the voter's registration will be inactivated unless the voter responds to the notice within 45 days after the date the notice is sent. The director shall send the notice** to each voter

(1) whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register;

(2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register **and** [; OR (3)] who has not voted or appeared to vote in the two general elections immediately preceding the examination of the register; **or**

**(3) who the division has learned, after registering to vote in this state and during the period encompassing the two general elections immediately preceding the examination of the register, has**

**(A) registered to vote in another state;**

**(B) received a driver's license from another state;**

**(C) registered a vehicle in another state;**

**(D) received public assistance from another state;**

**(E) served on a jury in another state;**

**(F) obtained a resident hunting or fishing license in another**

**state;**

**(G) paid the state resident tuition rate for a public**

**university in another state;**

(H) received a homestead or residential property tax exemption in another state; or

(I) received a benefit available only to residents of another state.

\* **Sec. 12.** AS 15.07.130(e) is amended to read:

(e) For purposes of (b) and (d) of this section, a voter "appears to vote" if

(1) the voter is present at a polling place or at an early [ABSENTEE] voting station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) at a time when the polling place or early [ABSENTEE] voting station is operating, for the purpose of casting a vote;

(2) the voter applies to the division to obtain an absentee ballot; or

(3) in an election conducted by mail under AS 15.20.800, a voter who has not received a ballot by mail makes a timely request to the division for a ballot.

\* **Sec. 13.** AS 15.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 15.07.133. Process to cancel registration.** The director shall develop a process to allow a voter to cancel the voter's registration electronically or in person before an election official. The director shall prominently display instructions for a voter to cancel the voter's registration at each polling place.

\* **Sec. 14.** AS 15.10.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) The director shall employ five rural community liaisons and assign each liaison to a region of the state in a manner that ensures each part of the state has one rural community liaison. The rural community liaisons shall collaborate with tribes, municipalities, corporations incorporated under AS 10.06, regional nonprofit corporations, and other community organizations to facilitate access to early and absentee voting in rural areas of the state and ensure that precincts in rural areas of the state are fully staffed.

\* **Sec. 15.** AS 15.13.020(j) is amended to read:

(j) The commission shall establish offices [AN OFFICE, WHICH MAY BE CALLED A REGIONAL OFFICE, IN EACH SENATE DISTRICT IN THE STATE TO KEEP ON FILE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION COPIES OF ALL REPORTS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE AND BY CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE IN THAT DISTRICT;



1       HOWEVER, WHERE ONE MUNICIPALITY CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE  
2       HOUSE DISTRICT, ONLY ONE COMMISSION OFFICE SHALL BE  
3       ESTABLISHED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY. THE REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL  
4       MAKE ALL FORMS AND PERTINENT MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO  
5       CANDIDATES. ALL REPORTS SHALL BE FILED BY CANDIDATES, GROUPS,  
6       AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL  
7       DISTRICT OFFICE. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT COPIES OF  
8       ALL REPORTS BY STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN EACH  
9       SENATE DISTRICT ARE FORWARDED PROMPTLY TO THAT DISTRICT OR  
10      REGIONAL OFFICE].

11      \* **Sec. 16.** AS 15.15.060(a) is amended to read:

12           (a) Immediately following the appointment of the election board, the election  
13      supervisor in conjunction with the election board chair shall secure polling places for  
14      holding the election, suitable ballot boxes that will ensure [ASSURE] security, and an  
15      adequate number of voting booths or screens, national flags, pens, and pencils. At  
16      every polling place, at least one voting booth shall be furnished and not less than one  
17      voting booth or screen shall be furnished for each 100 votes or fractional part of 100  
18      votes cast in the previous election. [AT EVERY POLLING PLACE, AT LEAST  
19      ONE-HALF OF THE VOTING BOOTHS USED SHALL BE NOT LESS THAN SIX  
20      FEET IN HEIGHT, ENCLOSED ON THREE SIDES, AND PROVIDED WITH A  
21      CURTAIN EXTENDING FROM THE TOP OF THE VOTING BOOTH TO  
22      WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 30 INCHES OF THE FLOOR. THE CURTAIN OF  
23      THE VOTING BOOTH MUST CONCEAL THE VOTER WHILE VOTING.] The  
24      election supervisor and the election board chair may, in an emergency, secure an  
25      alternate location for a polling place.

26      \* **Sec. 17.** AS 15.15.060(b) is amended to read:

27           (b) To ensure [ASSURE] administrative economy and to protect the secrecy  
28      of the ballot, the director may adopt regulations prescribing  
29           (1) the type of polling place for holding the election;  
30           (2) the requirements regarding ballot boxes, voting screens, national  
31      flags, and other supplies; and

(3) [SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF (a) OF THIS SECTION,] the requirements regarding voting booths.

\* **Sec. 18.** AS 15.15.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(f) At each polling place, the division shall provide language assistance as required under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended. An election supervisor shall post at each polling place information regarding the availability of language assistance in English and all other languages for which language assistance is required to be provided in the jurisdiction under federal law.

\* **Sec. 19.** AS 15.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 15.15.205. Questioning of voter who requested absentee ballot.** If a voter appears on the official registration list as having received or voted an absentee ballot, the election official shall affirmatively advise the voter that the voter may surrender the absentee ballot for destruction or cast a questioned ballot. If the voter does not surrender the absentee ballot, the voter shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot.

\* **Sec. 20.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.15.370. Results [COMPLETION] of ballot count [; CERTIFICATE].** When the count of ballots is completed, and in no event later than the day after the election, the election board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the results. The certificate includes the number of votes cast for each candidate, including, for a candidate in a general election, the number of votes at each **ranking performed** [ROUND OF THE RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION PROCESS] under AS 15.15.350, the number of votes for and against each proposition, yes or no on each question, and any additional information prescribed by the director. The election board shall, immediately upon completion of the certificate or as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send in one sealed package to the director one copy of the certificate and the register. In addition, all ballots properly cast shall be mailed to the director in a separate, sealed package. Both packages, in addition to an address on the outside, shall clearly indicate the precinct from which they come. Each board shall, immediately upon completion of the certification and as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send the duplicate certificate to the respective election

supervisor. The director may authorize election boards in precincts in those areas of the state where distance and weather make mail communication unreliable to forward their election results by telephone or radio. The director may authorize the unofficial totaling of votes on a regional basis by election supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on duplicate certificates. **If the director publishes unofficial results, the director shall include, for each candidate, the subsequent candidate rankings selected by the voters who ranked that candidate as the voters' first choice.** To ensure adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the ballots, registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved, transferred, and destroyed.

\* **Sec. 21.** AS 15.15.370 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) Each day that the director releases unofficial totals of election results for a general election, the director shall also release an updated ranked-choice tabulation and identify the precincts that have been counted.

\* **Sec. 22.** AS 15.15.380 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.15.380. Payment of election board members.** The director shall pay each election board member for time spent at election duties, including the receiving of instructions. Election board chairpersons and the chairperson and members of the absentee ballot, questioned ballot, and state ballot counting review boards shall be paid for time spent at their election duties. The director shall set the compensation to be paid under this section. **The director may reduce the compensation to be paid under this section only** by regulation.

\* **Sec. 23.** AS 15.15.420 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.15.420. Duty to review the ballot counting.** The director shall review the counting of the ballots **under** [WITH] the **observance** [ASSISTANCE] of and in the presence of the appointed representatives from the political parties. **A candidate for an office that is on the ballots being counted and appointed representatives from the group supporting and from the group opposing a ballot proposition may be present and observe.**

\* **Sec. 24.** AS 15.15.430(a) is amended to read:

(a) The review of ballot counting by the director **must** [SHALL] include

[ONLY (1)] a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast. The review must include [; (2)] a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law. The review must include, for each house district except a house district where all races on the ballot are uncontested [; AND (3) UNLESS THE BALLOT FOR THE HOUSE DISTRICT CONTAINS NOTHING BUT UNCONTESTED OFFICES], a hand count of ballots from one randomly selected precinct in the [EACH] house district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district. The director may adopt regulations prescribing additional review procedures employing statistical methods to limit the risk of certifying an election result that would be inconsistent with the result that would be obtained by conducting a recount.

\* **Sec. 25.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material.** The director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot, and shall provide a postage-paid return [AN] envelope with the prescribed voter's certificate on it, in which the secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The director shall prescribe the form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and other material used in absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a blank for the voter's signature, and a space for recording the date that the voter signed the certificate. An envelope may not identify a voter's party affiliation [, A CERTIFICATION THAT THE AFFIANT PROPERLY EXECUTED THE MARKING OF THE BALLOT AND GAVE THE VOTER'S IDENTITY, BLANKS FOR THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS, AND A PLACE FOR RECORDING THE DATE THE ENVELOPE WAS SEALED AND WITNESSED]. The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false statements made by the voter [OR BY THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS] on the certificate are punishable by law.

\* **Sec. 26.** AS 15.20.045 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.20.045. Designation of absentee voting officials and stations.** (a)

The director or election supervisor may designate persons to act as absentee voting officials under AS 15.20.010 - 15.20.220 in areas where election supervisors do not have offices. Magistrates may, with the approval of the administrative director of the Alaska Court System, be designated under this section. At least 30 [15] days before the election the director shall supply each absentee voting official with appropriate ballots.

(b) The director may designate by regulation [ADOPTED UNDER AS 44.62 (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT)] locations at which early [ABSENTEE] voting stations will be operated for persons to vote absentee ballots on or after the 30th [15TH] day before an election up to and including the date of the election. The director shall supply these [ABSENTEE] voting stations with absentee ballots for all house districts in the state and shall designate absentee voting officials to serve at the [ABSENTEE] voting stations.

(c) In a municipality in which the division will not be operating an early [ABSENTEE] voting station under this section, the director may designate the municipal clerk as an absentee voting official for the limited purpose of distributing absentee ballots to qualified voters under AS 15.20.061(a)(1) and qualified voters' representatives under AS 15.20.072. At least 30 [15] days before the election, the director shall supply municipal clerks designated under this subsection with absentee ballots.

\* **Sec. 27.** AS 15.20.050 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.20.050. Requirement of full public notice.** The director shall give full public notice of the dates and manner of voting absentee and may select any means of communication permitted to be used in giving notice of the date and time of the general election. The director shall give notice under this section of the location of early [ABSENTEE] voting stations designated under AS 15.20.045(b) at least 45 days before each election.

\* **Sec. 28.** AS 15.20.061(a) is amended to read:

(a) A qualified voter may apply in person for an absentee ballot to the following election officials at the times specified:

(1) to an absentee voting official on or after the 20th [15TH] day

before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(2) to an election supervisor on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(3) to an absentee voting official at an early [ABSENTEE] voting station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(4) to an absentee voting official in the precinct in which no volunteers can be located to serve on the election board on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an election up to and including election day.

\* **Sec. 29.** AS 15.20.064(a) is amended to read:

(a) For 20 [15] days before an election and on election day, a qualified voter who meets the requirements set out in this section may vote in locations designated by the director.

\* **Sec. 30.** AS 15.20.064 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) If a voter fails to satisfy the requirements of (b) of this section, the voter shall be allowed to vote an absentee ballot in the manner provided in AS 15.20.061.

\* **Sec. 31.** AS 15.20.072(b) is amended to read:

(b) The voter may, through a representative, request a special needs ballot from the following election officials at the times specified:

(1) from an absentee voting official on or after the 30th [15TH] day before an election, up to and including election day;

(2) from an election supervisor on or after the 30th [15TH] day before an election up to and including election day;

(3) from an absentee voting official at an early [ABSENTEE] voting station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 30th [15TH] day before an election up to and including the date of the election; or

(4) from a member of the precinct election board on election day.

\* **Sec. 32.** AS 15.20.072 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(h) If a voter satisfies the requirements of (d) of this section, the division may not reject a voter's special needs ballot based on an error by an election official or representative on the register under (c) of this section or an error by a representative

under (d) of this section.

\* **Sec. 33.** AS 15.20.081(d) is amended to read:

(d) Upon receipt of an absentee ballot by mail, the voter [, IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, DISTRICT JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE, UNITED STATES POSTAL OFFICIAL, REGISTRATION OFFICIAL, OR OTHER PERSON QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER OATHS,] may proceed to mark the ballot in secret, to place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve, to place the secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided, and to sign the voter's certificate on the envelope. The [IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICIAL LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION WHO SHALL SIGN AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AND SHALL DATE THE SIGNATURE. IF NONE OF THE OFFICIALS LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION IS REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE, AN ABSENTEE VOTER SHALL SIGN THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, WHO SHALL SIGN AS A WITNESS AND ATTEST TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE VOTER SIGNED THE CERTIFICATE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRESENCE, AND, IN ADDITION, THE] voter shall certify, as prescribed in AS 09.63.020, under penalty of perjury, that the statements in the voter's certification are true.

\* **Sec. 34.** AS 15.20.081(e) is amended to read:

(e) An absentee ballot must be marked on or before the date of the election. Except as provided in (h) of this section, a voter who returns the absentee ballot by mail, whether provided to the voter by mail or by electronic transmission, shall use a mail service at least equal to first class and mail the ballot not later than the day of the election to the election supervisor for the house district in which the voter seeks to vote. Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, the ballot may not be counted unless it is received by the close of business on the 10th day after the election. [IF THE BALLOT IS POSTMARKED, IT MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY.] After the day of the election, ballots may not be accepted unless received by mail. A ballot received after the day of the election that is not postmarked or is postmarked after the day of the election may not be counted unless the ballot

envelope is marked with a United States Postal Service tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election or with a division of elections ballot tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election.

\* **Sec. 35.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(m) If a voter requests under AS 15.07.060(g) or, at least 45 days before an election, requests in writing or by other means designated in regulations adopted by the director to receive a ballot in a language other than English in which the division is required to print election materials under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, the director shall provide the voter with a ballot and election materials under this section in the language requested.

\* **Sec. 36.** AS 15.20.201(a) is amended to read:

(a) **Not** [NO] less than **10** [SEVEN] days preceding the day of election, the election supervisor, in the presence and with the assistance of the district absentee ballot counting board, shall **begin to** review all voter certificates **and envelopes** of absentee ballots received by that date. The review of absentee ballots shall continue at times designated by the election supervisor until completed. **An absentee ballot may not be counted until the accompanying voter certificate has been reviewed.**

\* **Sec. 37.** AS 15.20.201(b) is amended to read:

(b) Counting of absentee ballots that have been reviewed shall begin **not less than 10 days preceding** [AT 8:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON] the day of the election at places designated by each election supervisor and shall continue until all absentee ballots reviewed and eligible for counting have been counted. The counting teams shall report the **first** count of absentee ballots to the district absentee ballot counting board **not later than** [. AN ELECTION SUPERVISOR OR AN ELECTION OFFICIAL MAY NOT COUNT ABSENTEE BALLOTS BEFORE] 8:00 p.m., local time, on the day of the election. Counting of the absentee ballots shall continue at times designated by the election supervisor until all absentee ballots are counted.

\* **Sec. 38.** AS 15.20.203(b) is amended to read:

(b) **The board shall reject an** [AN] absentee ballot [MAY NOT BE COUNTED] if



(1) the voter has failed to properly **sign** [EXECUTE] the certificate;

(2) [AN OFFICIAL OR THE WITNESSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO ATTEST THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE FAIL TO EXECUTE THE CERTIFICATE, EXCEPT THAT AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CAST IN PERSON AND ACCEPTED BY AN ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION SUPERVISOR MAY BE COUNTED DESPITE FAILURE OF THE ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION SUPERVISOR TO PROPERLY SIGN AND DATE THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AS REQUIRED UNDER AS 15.20.061(c);

(3) THE BALLOT IS NOT ATTESTED ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE ELECTION;

(4)] the ballot **envelope and certificate**, if **delivered by mail after the day of the election** [POSTMARKED],

(A) is [NOT] postmarked **after** [ON OR BEFORE] the date of the election; **or**

(B) **has a United States Postal Service tracking barcode or a division of elections ballot tracking barcode verifying that the ballot was mailed after the date of the election;**

(3) [(5)] after the day of election, the ballot was delivered by a means other than mail; **or**

(4) [OR (6)] the voter voted

(A) in person and is a

(i) first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, has not provided the identification required by AS 15.15.225(a), was not eligible for waiver of the identification requirement under AS 15.15.225(b), and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3) that can be verified through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e); or

(ii) voter other than one described in (i) of this subparagraph, did not provide identification described in

AS 15.15.225(a), was not personally known by the election official, and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3); or

(B) by mail or electronic transmission, is a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 to vote, has not met the identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060, and does not submit with the ballot a copy of a

(i) driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license; or

(ii) current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item described in this sub-subparagraph must show the name and current address of the voter.

\* **Sec. 39.** AS 15.20.220(b) is amended to read:

(b) The state review board shall review and count absentee ballots under AS 15.20.081(e) and (h), **absentee ballots properly cured under AS 15.20.222**, and questioned ballots that have been forwarded to the director and that have not been reviewed or counted by a district counting board.

\* **Sec. 40.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 15.20.222. Procedure for curing uncounted ballot.** (a) If a voter returns a ballot that is rejected because the certificate is missing a signature or the voter provided insufficient voter identification, the director shall immediately make a reasonable effort to contact the voter, explain the ballot deficiency, explain how the deficiency may be cured, and inform the voter of the deadline to cure the ballot. The director shall, within 24 hours, attempt to begin sending notices of deficiency by electronic mail to the voter's electronic mail address if the voter has provided an electronic mail address. If the voter has provided a telephone number, the director shall, within 24 hours, attempt to notify the voter of the deficiency by telephone call and text message. The director shall, within 48 hours and not later than five days after

election day, send a notice of deficiency by first class, nonforwardable mail to the address on the voter's registration record.

(b) A notice of deficiency must include a form for the voter to confirm that the voter returned a ballot to the division and provide a copy of a form of identification accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a). The director shall provide a printed copy of the form with the notice of deficiency mailed to the voter. The director shall also make the form available in a format that can be completed and returned electronically.

(c) The rejected ballot of a voter who received a notice of deficiency may be counted only if

(1) the voter returns the form sent with the notice of deficiency, the division receives the form within 14 days after election day, and the form confirms that the voter returned a ballot to the division;

(2) the voter provides a signature and includes a copy of a form of identification accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a); and

(3) the ballot is otherwise valid.

(d) The director shall, if applicable, send copies of the signature on the voter's return envelope and the signature stored in voter registration records to the attorney general for investigation if the voter returns the form and the form indicates that the voter did not return a ballot to the division.

\* **Sec. 41.** AS 15.56.030(d) is amended to read:

(d) For purposes of (a)(2) and (3) of this section, "other valuable thing"

(1) includes

(A) an entry in a game of chance in which a prize of money or other present or future pecuniary gain or advantage may be awarded to a participant wherein the total of the prizes offered is greater than \$2 per participant with a maximum of \$100; and

(B) government employment or benefits;

(2) does not include

(A) materials having a nominal value bearing the name, likeness, or other identification of a candidate, political party, political group,

party district committee, or organization, or stating a position on a ballot proposition or question;

(B) food and refreshments provided incidental to an activity that is nonpartisan in nature and directed at encouraging persons to vote, or incidental to a gathering in support of or in opposition to a candidate, political party, political group, party district committee, organization, or ballot question or proposition;

(C) care of the voter's dependents provided in connection with the absence of a voter from home for the purpose of voting;

(D) services provided by a person acting as a representative under AS 15.20.072;

(E) services provided by an election official as defined in AS 15.80.010; [AND]

(F) transportation of a voter to or from the polls without charge; and

(G) postage-paid return envelopes required in AS 15.20.030.

\* **Sec. 42.** AS 15.58.030(h) is amended to read:

(h) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and publish on the division's Internet website the photograph and statement of a candidate for an office designated under (a), (b), or (g) of this section. The lieutenant governor shall indicate that the photograph and statement are provided and paid for by the candidate. A photograph and a statement of a candidate that have been timely filed with the lieutenant governor shall be published on the website at least 30 [15] days before an election at which the candidate will appear on the ballot.

\* **Sec. 43.** AS 15.80 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 15.80.006. Cybersecurity.** The director shall, by regulation, develop a cybersecurity program to defend the voter registration records kept by the division against cyber attacks and data breaches and enable the division to detect and recover from cyber attacks. The program must include cybersecurity training for election officials.

\* **Sec. 44.** AS 19.25.105(a) is amended to read:

(a) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state except the following:

(1) directional and other official signs and notices **that** [WHICH] include [, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,] signs and notices pertaining to natural wonders, scenic and historic attractions, which are required or authorized by law, and which shall conform to federal standards for interstate and primary systems;

(2) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property **on** [UPON] which they are located or advertising activities conducted on the property;

(3) signs determined by the state, subject to concurrence of the United States Department of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm structures or natural surfaces of historic or artistic significance, the preservation of which would be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

(4) directional signs and notices pertaining to schools;

(5) advertising on bus benches or bus shelters, and adjacent trash receptacles, if the state determines that the advertising conforms to local, state, and federal standards for interstate and primary highways;

**(6) temporary political campaign signs not larger than 32 square feet in size displayed on private property if the owner or resident of the property is not being compensated for the display, the sign is not a risk to the public, and the sign is outside of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway right-of-way.**

\* **Sec. 45.** AS 24.45.091 is amended to read:

**Sec. 24.45.091. Publication of reports.** Copies of the statements and reports filed under this chapter shall be made available to the public at the commission's **offices** [CENTRAL OFFICE], the office of the lieutenant governor, **and** the legislative reference library of the Legislative Affairs Agency [, AND AT THE COMMISSION'S DISTRICT OFFICES PRESCRIBED IN AS 15.13.020(j)] as soon as practicable after each reporting period.

\* **Sec. 46.** AS 29.20.380(c) is amended to read:

(c) The municipal clerk may act as an absentee voting official under

AS 15.20.045(c) for the limited purpose of distributing absentee ballots to qualified voters or qualified voters' representatives under AS 15.20.072 in a municipality in which the division of elections will not be operating an early [ABSENTEE] voting station under AS 15.20.045(b).

\* **Sec. 47.** AS 29.26.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) Except as a municipality may require for elections held only in specific local election districts or service areas under (b) of this section, a person who has lived within the municipality for at least 30 days, but who has not registered to vote in state elections at a residence address within the municipality at least 30 days before a municipal election, may vote only 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 who registers within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.

\* **Sec. 48.** AS 39.50.020(b) is amended to read:

(b) A public official, [OR] former public official, or candidate for municipal office [OTHER THAN AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED MUNICIPAL OFFICER] shall file the statement with the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Candidates for the office of governor and lieutenant governor and, if the candidate is not subject to AS 24.60, the legislature shall file the statement under AS 15.25.030. The Alaska Public Offices Commission shall provide copies of the statements filed by municipal [MUNICIPAL] officers, former municipal officers, and candidates for elective municipal office to [SHALL FILE WITH] the applicable municipal clerk or other municipal official designated to receive the statements [THEIR FILING FOR OFFICE]. All statements required to be filed under this chapter are public records.

\* **Sec. 49.** AS 29.26.050(a)(3) is repealed.

\* **Sec. 50.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. AS 15.56.030(d), as amended by sec. 41 of this Act, applies to offenses committed on or after the effective date of sec. 41 of this Act.

\* **Sec. 51.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.