

**Joint Judiciary Committee Hearing on 11ACMP:**  
**Coastal Management Program Initiative**  
**– February 2012 –**  
**Relevant Laws**

## **The Alaska Constitution (Article XI)**

### **§ 1. Initiative and Referendum**

The people may propose and enact laws by the initiative, and approve or reject acts of the legislature by the referendum.

### **§ 2. Application**

An initiative or referendum is proposed by an application containing the bill to be initiated or the act to be referred. The application shall be signed by not less than one hundred qualified voters as sponsors, and shall be filed with the lieutenant governor. If he finds it in proper form he shall so certify. Denial of certification shall be subject to judicial review.

### **§ 3. Petition**

After certification of the application, a petition containing a summary of the subject matter shall be prepared by the lieutenant governor for circulation by the sponsors. If signed by qualified voters who are equal in number to at least ten per cent of those who voted in the preceding general election, who are resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts of the State, and who, in each of those house districts, are equal in number to at least seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district, it may be filed with the lieutenant governor.

### **§ 4. Initiative Election**

An initiative petition may be filed at any time. The lieutenant governor shall prepare a ballot title and proposition summarizing the proposed law, and shall place them on the ballot for the first statewide election held more than one hundred twenty days after adjournment of the legislative session following the filing. If, before the election, substantially the same measure has been enacted, the petition is void.

### **§ 6. Enactment**

If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition favor its adoption, the initiated measure is enacted. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition favor the rejection of an act referred, it is rejected. The lieutenant governor shall certify the election returns. An initiated law becomes effective ninety days after certification, is not subject to veto, and may not be repealed by the legislature within two years of its effective date. It may be amended at any time. An act rejected by referendum is void thirty days after certification. Additional procedures for the initiative and referendum may be prescribed by law.

### **§ 7. Restrictions**

The initiative shall not be used to dedicate revenues, make or repeal appropriations, create courts, define the jurisdiction of courts or prescribe their rules, or enact local or special legislation. The referendum shall not be applied to dedications of revenue, to appropriations, to local or special legislation, or to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

## Alaska Statutes on Initiatives

### Article 01. INITIATIVE

#### Sec. 15.45.010. Provision and scope for use of the initiative.

The law-making powers assigned to the legislature may be exercised by the people through the initiative. However, an initiative may not be proposed to dedicate revenue, to make or repeal appropriations, to create courts, to define the jurisdiction of courts or prescribe their rules, or to enact local or special legislation.

#### Sec. 15.45.020. Filing application.

An initiative is proposed by filing an application with the lieutenant governor. A deposit of \$100 must accompany the application. This deposit shall be retained if a petition is not properly filed. If a petition is properly filed, the deposit shall be refunded.

#### Sec. 15.45.030. Form of application.

The application must include the

(1) proposed bill;

(2) printed name, the signature, the address, and a numerical identifier of not fewer than 100 qualified voters who will serve as sponsors; each signature page must include a statement that the sponsors are qualified voters who signed the application with the proposed bill attached; and

(3) designation of an initiative committee consisting of three of the sponsors who subscribed to the application and represent all sponsors and subscribers in matters relating to the initiative; the designation must include the name, mailing address, and signature of each committee member.

#### Sec. 15.45.040. Form of proposed bill.

The proposed bill shall be in the following form:

(1) the bill shall be confined to one subject;

(2) the subject of the bill shall be expressed in the title;

(3) the enacting clause of the bill shall be: "Be it enacted by the People of the State of Alaska;"

(4) the bill may not include subjects restricted by AS 15.45.010.

#### Sec. 15.45.050. Manner of notice.

Notice to the initiative committee on any matter pertaining to the application and petition may be served on any member of the committee in person or by mail addressed to a committee member as indicated on the application.

#### Sec. 15.45.060. Designation of sponsors.

The qualified voters who subscribe to the application in support of the proposed bill are designated as sponsors. The initiative committee may designate additional sponsors by giving written notice to the lieutenant governor of the names, addresses, and numerical identifiers of those so designated.

Sec. 15.45.070. Review of application for certification.

Within 60 calendar days after the date the application is received, the lieutenant governor shall review the application and shall either certify it or notify the initiative committee of the grounds for denial.

Sec. 15.45.080. Bases of denial of certification.

The lieutenant governor shall deny certification upon determining in writing that

- (1) the proposed bill to be initiated is not confined to one subject or is otherwise not in the required form;
- (2) the application is not substantially in the required form; or
- (3) there is an insufficient number of qualified sponsors.

Sec. 15.45.090. Preparation of petition.

(a) If the application is certified, the lieutenant governor shall prepare a sufficient number of sequentially numbered petitions to allow full circulation throughout the state. Each petition must contain

- (1) a copy of the proposed bill;
- (2) an impartial summary of the subject matter of the bill;
- (3) a statement of minimum costs to the state associated with certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition, excluding legal costs to the state and the costs to the state of any challenge to the validity of the petition;
- (4) an estimate of the cost to the state of implementing the proposed law;
- (5) the statement of warning prescribed in AS 15.45.100;
- (6) sufficient space for the printed name, a numerical identifier, the signature, the date of signature, and the address of each person signing the petition; and
- (7) other specifications prescribed by the lieutenant governor to ensure proper handling and control.

(b) Upon request of the initiative committee, the lieutenant governor shall report to the committee the number of persons who voted in the preceding general election.

Sec. 15.45.100. Statement of warning.

Each petition shall include a statement of warning that a person who signs a name other than the person's own on the petition, or who knowingly signs more than once for the same proposition at one election, or who signs the petition when knowingly not a qualified voter, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 15.45.105. Qualifications of circulator.

To circulate a petition booklet, a person shall be

- (1) a citizen of the United States;
- (2) 18 years of age or older; and
- (3) a resident of the state as determined under [AS 15.05.020](#).

Sec. 15.45.110. Circulation of petition; prohibitions and penalty.

- (a) The petitions may be circulated throughout the state only in person.
- (b) *[Repealed, Sec. 92 ch 82 SLA 2000].*
- (c) A circulator may not receive payment or agree to receive payment that is greater than \$1 a signature, and a person or an organization may not pay or agree to pay an amount that is greater than \$1 a signature, for the collection of signatures on a petition.
- (d) A person or organization may not knowingly pay, offer to pay, or cause to be paid money or other valuable thing to a person to sign or refrain from signing a petition.
- (e) A person or organization that violates (c) or (d) of this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (f) In this section,
  - (1) "organization" has the meaning given in [AS 11.81.900](#);
  - (2) "other valuable thing" has the meaning given in [AS 15.56.030\(d\)](#);
  - (3) "person" has the meaning given in [AS 11.81.900](#).

Sec. 15.45.120. Manner of signing and withdrawing name from petition.

Any qualified voter may subscribe to the petition by printing the voter's name, a numerical identifier, and an address, by signing the voter's name, and by dating the signature. A person who has signed the initiative petition may withdraw the person's name only by giving written notice to the lieutenant governor before the date the petition is filed.

Sec. 15.45.130. Certification of circulator.

Before being filed, each petition shall be certified by an affidavit by the person who personally circulated the petition. In determining the sufficiency of the petition, the lieutenant governor may not count subscriptions on

petitions not properly certified at the time of filing or corrected before the subscriptions are counted. The affidavit must state in substance

(1) that the person signing the affidavit meets the residency, age, and citizenship qualifications for circulating a petition under AS 15.45.105;

(2) that the person is the only circulator of that petition;

(3) that the signatures were made in the circulator's actual presence;

(4) that, to the best of the circulator's knowledge, the signatures are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be;

(5) that, to the best of the circulator's knowledge, the signatures are of persons who were qualified voters on the date of signature;

(6) that the circulator has not entered into an agreement with a person or organization in violation of AS 15.45.110(c);

(7) that the circulator has not violated AS 15.45.110(d) with respect to that petition; and

(8) whether the circulator has received payment or agreed to receive payment for the collection of signatures on the petition, and, if so, the name of each person or organization that has paid or agreed to pay the circulator for collection of signatures on the petition.

Sec. 15.45.140. Filing of petition.

(a) The sponsors must file the initiative petition within one year from the time the sponsors received notice from the lieutenant governor that the petitions were ready for delivery to them. The petition may be filed with the lieutenant governor only if it meets all of the following requirements: it is signed by qualified voters

(1) equal in number to 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election;

(2) resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts of the state; and

(3) who, in each of the house districts described in (2) of this subsection, are equal in number to at least seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district.

(b) If the petition is not filed within the one-year period provided for in (a) of this section, the petition has no force or effect.

Sec. 15.45.150. Review of petition.

Within not more than 60 days of the date the petition was filed, the lieutenant governor shall review the petition and shall notify the initiative committee whether the petition was properly or improperly filed, and at which election the proposition shall be placed on the ballot.

Sec. 15.45.160. Bases for determining the petition was improperly filed.

The lieutenant governor shall notify the committee that the petition was improperly filed upon determining that

- (1) there is an insufficient number of qualified subscribers;
- (2) the subscribers were not resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts of the state; or
- (3) there is an insufficient number of qualified subscribers from each of the house districts described in (2) of this section.

*Sec. 15.45.170. Submission of supplementary petition. [Repealed, Sec. 7 ch 80 SLA 1998].*

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 15.45.180. Preparation of ballot title and proposition.

(a) If the petition is properly filed, the lieutenant governor, with the assistance of the attorney general, shall prepare a ballot title and proposition. The ballot title shall, in not more than 25 words, indicate the general subject of the proposition. The proposition shall give a true and impartial summary of the proposed law. The total number of words used in the summary may not exceed the product of the number of sections in the proposed law multiplied by 50. In this subsection, "section" means a provision of the proposed law that is distinct from other provisions in purpose or subject matter.

(b) The proposition prepared under (a) of this section shall comply with AS 15.80.005 and shall be worded so that a "Yes" vote on the proposition is a vote to enact the proposed law.

Sec. 15.45.190. Placing proposition on ballot.

The lieutenant governor shall direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after

- (1) the petition has been filed;
- (2) a legislative session has convened and adjourned; and
- (3) a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session.

**Sec. 15.45.195. Public hearings.**

(a) At least 30 days before the election at which an initiative is to appear on the ballot, the lieutenant governor or a designee of the lieutenant governor shall hold two or more public hearings concerning the initiative in each judicial district of the state. Each public hearing under this section shall include the written or oral testimony of one supporter and one opponent of the initiative.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall provide reasonable notice of each public hearing required under this section. The notice must include the date, time, and place of the hearing. The notice may be given using print or broadcast media. The lieutenant governor shall provide notice in a consistent fashion for all hearings required under this section.

(c) Penalties for a violation of this section may not include removal of an initiative from the ballot.

(d) If the lieutenant governor determines that it is technologically and economically feasible, the division shall provide a live audio and video broadcast of each hearing held under (a) of this section on the division's Internet website.

Sec. 15.45.200. Display of proposed law.

The director shall provide each election board with at least five copies of the proposed law being initiated, and the election board shall display at least one copy of the proposed law in a conspicuous place in the room where the election is held.

Sec. 15.45.210. Determination of void petition.

If the lieutenant governor, with the formal concurrence of the attorney general, determines that an act of the legislature that is substantially the same as the proposed law was enacted after the petition had been filed, and before the date of the election, the petition is void and the lieutenant governor shall so notify the committee.

Sec. 15.45.220. Adoption and effective date of proposed law.

If a majority of the votes cast on the initiative proposition favor its adoption, the proposed law is enacted, and the lieutenant governor shall so certify. The act becomes effective 90 days after certification.

*Sec. 15.45.230. Insufficiency of application or petition. [Repealed, Sec. 7, ch 80 SLA 1998].*

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 15.45.240. Judicial review.

Any person aggrieved by a determination made by the lieutenant governor under AS 15.45.010 - 15.45.220 may bring an action in the superior court to have the determination reviewed within 30 days of the date on which notice of the determination was given.

Sec. 15.45.245. Delegation by lieutenant governor.

The lieutenant governor may delegate the duties imposed on the lieutenant governor by AS 15.45.010 - 15.45.240 to the director.

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## **Legislative Powers**

**Sec. 24.05.186. Legislative hearings on initiatives certified by the lieutenant governor.**

(a) A standing committee of the legislature, selected jointly by the presiding officers of the house of representatives and senate, shall hold at least one hearing on an initiative that the lieutenant governor has determined was properly filed under AS 15.45.160.

(b) The standing committee selected jointly by the presiding officers of the house of representatives and senate under (a) of this section shall hold at least one hearing under this section within 30 days after the convening of the legislative session preceding the statewide election at which the initiative proposition must appear on the election ballot under AS 15.45.190.