

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

April 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Sectional summary of CSSB 284(FIN)
(Work Order No. 26-LS1448P)

TO: Senator Hollis French
Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: Cindy Smith

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *ALB*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.¹

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Amends language relating to the applicability of AS 15.13 (state election campaigns) to clarify that the chapter applies to all contributions, expenditures, and communications made for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election covered by the chapter.

Section 2. Amends language relating to the duties of the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) to clarify that the commission will assist all persons to comply with the requirements of AS 15.13.

Section 3. Amends AS 15.13.040(d) to clarify that every person making an independent expenditure must make a full report of expenditures and contributions received to the commission unless the person is exempted from reporting by another provision of the chapter.

Section 4. Adds new requirements to the expenditure report required under AS 15.13.040(d) and specifies that the report must be filed in accordance with AS 15.13.110(g).

¹ Please note that only sec. 10 of the bill is modified from the version of the bill passed out by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Section 5. Amends language in AS 15.13.040(h) to clarify that the reporting requirements of AS 15.13.040(d) do not apply to an expenditure made by certain individuals acting independently of any other person.

Section 6. Amends AS 15.13.040(p) to clarify that a person who is required to disclose contributions received by that person in an expenditure report under AS 15.13.040(d) must report the true source of the contributions as the "contributor."

Section 7. Defines "director" and "officer" for the purposes of AS 15.13.040(e), as that subsection is amended by the bill.

Section 8. Requires each person other than an individual, candidate, or nongroup entity with an annual operating budget of \$250 or less, to establish an account from which all funds, used by the person to make independent expenditures, must be drawn. Requires the person to (1) make records relating to the account available to APOC and (2) preserve all records relating to the account for a period of six years.

Section 9. Amends AS 15.13.067 to clarify who may make an expenditure that is not an independent expenditure, in a state election for public office.

Section 10. Prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution or expenditure or an express or implied promise to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with a state election. Provides that the prohibition will be enforced only to the extent that federal law prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution or expenditure, and only to the extent permitted by federal law.

Section 11. Provides that no person, other an individual exempt from reporting under AS 15.13.040(h), may make an expenditure unless the source of the expenditure has been disclosed.

Section 12. Amends language in AS 15.13.084 to clarify that a person may not make an expenditure anonymously unless it is made (1) for certain communications, (2) in connection with a ballot proposition as that term is defined by AS 15.13.065(c), and (3) by an individual acting independently of any other person.

Section 13. Expands the communication identification requirements of AS 15.13.090 to apply to communications made by all persons, and additionally requires a person other than a candidate, individual, or a political party to (1) identify the person's principal officer, (2) include a statement from that officer approving the communication, (3) provide the address of the person's principal place of business, and (4) identify the person's five largest contributors.

Section 14. Provides how the communication identification requirements of AS 15.13.090(a), as amended by the bill, must be met in print, video, and audio components of a communication.

Section 15. Requires expenditure reports filed under AS 15.13.040(e) to be filed within 10 days of the expenditure being made, except for an expenditure that exceeds \$250 and that is made within nine days of an election must be reported to APOC within 24 hours of the expenditure being made.

Section 16. Amends the language of AS 15.13.111(a) to require all persons who are required to report under AS 15.13 to preserve certain records for a period of six years.

Section 17. Removes language from AS 15.13.135 that permitted only individuals, groups, or nongroup entities to make independent expenditures in support or in opposition to a candidate for public office. Adds language requiring all persons making certain independent expenditures to comply with AS 15.13.090.

Section 18. Amends language in AS 15.56.014(a) to clarify that any person who knowingly prints, publishes, or leases a communication without the "paid for language" required by AS 15.13.090 has committed campaign misconduct in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor.

Section 19. Repeals AS 15.13.140(a), a provision that provided that AS 15.13 should not be interpreted to prohibit a person from making independent expenditures in support or in opposition to a ballot proposition or question. As the chapter now reads, there is no ambiguity as to whether the chapter prohibits persons from making independent expenditures relating to a ballot proposition or question.

Section 20. Gives the Act an immediate effective date.