

HOUSE BILL NO. 66

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TUCK, Schrage

Introduced: 2/18/21

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to voting, voter qualifications, and voter registration; relating to poll**
2 **watchers; relating to absentee ballots and questioned ballots; relating to election worker**
3 **compensation; and providing for an effective date."**

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

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

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

7 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

8 (2) is 18 years of age or older;

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

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

13 *** Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.060(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Each applicant who requests registration or reregistration shall supply the

1 following information:

- 2 (1) the applicant's name and sex;
- 3 (2) if issued, the applicant's State of Alaska driver's license number or
- 4 State of Alaska identification card number, or the last four digits of the applicant's
- 5 social security number;
- 6 (3) the applicant's date of birth;
- 7 (4) the applicant's Alaska residence address;
- 8 (5) a statement of whether the applicant has previously been registered
- 9 to vote in another jurisdiction, and, if so, the jurisdiction and the address of the
- 10 previous registration;
- 11 (6) a declaration that the applicant will be 18 years of age or older
- 12 within 90 days after the date of registration;
- 13 (7) a declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the United States;
- 14 (8) the date of application;
- 15 (9) the applicant's signature, electronic signature under (g) of this
- 16 section, or mark;
- 17 (10) any former name under which the applicant was registered to vote
- 18 in the state;
- 19 (11) an attestation that the information provided by the applicant in (1)
- 20 - (10) of this subsection is true; [AND]
- 21 (12) a certification that the applicant understands that a false statement
- 22 on the application may make the applicant subject to prosecution for a misdemeanor
- 23 under this title or AS 11;
- 24 (13) if applying within 30 days before an election, a declaration
- 25 stating whether the applicant established residency at least 30 days before the
- 26 date of the election in
- 27 (A) the state;
- 28 (B) the house district in which the applicant seeks to vote at
- 29 the election; and
- 30 (14) an acknowledgment of understanding by the applicant that, if
- 31 the applicant has previously been registered to vote in another jurisdiction, the

director will notify the chief elections officer of that jurisdiction that the applicant has registered to vote in Alaska and request the applicant's voter registration be canceled in that jurisdiction.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) In accordance with AS 09.80.150(b), the director of the division shall determine the form of an electronic signature that may be used to register or reregister under (a) of this section and the process used to obtain the electronic signature.

* **Sec. 4.** 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 preceding an election or on the day of an election may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot [IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE] at that 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. 5.** 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 a voter's choice to register as nonpartisan, as undeclared, or as affiliated with a political party or political group and 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. 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. 6.** 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 who has reregistered 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.

* Sec. 7. 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, a person who has moved to a new precinct may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot. 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. 8. 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 [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. 9. 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. 10.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers. (a) **In a general election, special election, or special primary election, a** [THE] precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party **chair** [CHAIRPERSON] where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists, may appoint one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers in each precinct and counting center. **A** [FOR ANY ELECTION. EACH] candidate may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state [FOR ANY ELECTION]. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes **a ballot proposition** [AN INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM,] or recall may have one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. A state party **chair** [CHAIRPERSON], a precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. [A WATCHER MUST BE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN. THE WATCHER MAY BE PRESENT AT A POSITION INSIDE THE PLACE OF VOTING OR COUNTING THAT AFFORDS A FULL VIEW OF ALL ACTION OF THE ELECTION OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM THE TIME THE POLLS ARE OPENED UNTIL THE BALLOTS ARE FINALLY COUNTED AND THE RESULTS CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD. THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD MAY REQUIRE EACH WATCHER TO PRESENT WRITTEN PROOF SHOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE PRECINCT PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE THE WATCHER REPRESENTS.]

(b) In [ADDITION TO THE WATCHERS APPOINTED UNDER (a) OF THIS SECTION, IN] a primary election [OR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION OR SPECIAL ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.140], each candidate may appoint one **or**

more watchers for [WATCHER IN] each precinct and counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state. An organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes a ballot proposition or recall may have one or more watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 15.10.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A watcher appointed under this section may be present at a position inside the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the respective precinct party committee, party district committee, organization or organized group, or candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the respective chair of the precinct party committee, party district committee, state party chair, organization or organized group, or candidate. A watcher must be a United States citizen.

* **Sec. 12.** AS 15.15.210 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.15.210. Questioning of voters of suspect qualification; questioned ballot procedures. Every election official shall question, and every watcher and any other person qualified to vote in the precinct may question, a person attempting to vote if the questioner has good reason to suspect that the questioned person is not qualified under AS 15.05. All questions regarding a person's qualifications to vote shall be made in writing setting out the reason the person has been questioned. A questioned person shall **complete the declaration required under (b) of this section** [, BEFORE VOTING, SUBSCRIBE TO A DECLARATION IN A FORM PROVIDED BY THE DIRECTOR ATTESTING TO THE FACT THAT IN EACH PARTICULAR THE PERSON MEETS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER, IS NOT DISQUALIFIED, AND HAS NOT VOTED AT THE SAME ELECTION, AND CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON UNDERSTANDS THAT A FALSE STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION MAY SUBJECT THE PERSON TO PROSECUTION FOR A MISDEMEANOR UNDER THIS TITLE OR AS 11.

1 AFTER THE QUESTIONED PERSON HAS EXECUTED THE DECLARATION,
 2 THE PERSON MAY VOTE]. If the questioned person refuses to execute the
 3 declaration, the person may not vote.

4 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.15.210 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (b) Each person voting a questioned ballot shall complete a declaration in a
 6 form provided by the director attesting to the fact that the person is a qualified voter, is
 7 not disqualified, and has not voted at the same election and certifying that the person
 8 understands that a false statement on the declaration may subject the person to
 9 prosecution for a misdemeanor under this title or AS 11. For state and local elections,
 10 the voter must identify the voter's place of residence for the 30 days immediately
 11 preceding the election.

12 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.15.215(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) A voter who casts a questioned ballot shall vote the ballot in the same
 14 manner as prescribed for other voters. The voter shall insert the ballot into a secrecy
 15 sleeve and put the secrecy sleeve into an envelope on which the **declaration required**
 16 **by AS 15.15.210** [STATEMENT THE VOTER PREVIOUSLY SIGNED] is located.
 17 The envelope shall be sealed and deposited in the ballot box. When the ballot box is
 18 opened, the envelopes shall be segregated, counted, compared to the voting list, and
 19 delivered to the official or body supervising the election. The merits of the question
 20 shall be determined by this official or body in accordance with the procedure
 21 prescribed for questioned votes in AS 15.20.207.

22 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

23 **Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material.** The
 24 director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director
 25 shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot,
 26 and shall provide **a postage-paid return** [AN] envelope with the prescribed voter's
 27 certificate on it, in which the secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The
 28 director shall prescribe the form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and
 29 other material used in absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a
 30 declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a
 31 blank for the voter's signature, a certification that the affiant properly executed the

1 marking of the ballot and gave the voter's identity, blanks for the attesting official [OR
 2 WITNESS], and a place for recording the date the envelope was sealed and witnessed.
 3 **For state and local elections, the voter's certificate must include a declaration**
 4 **identifying the voter's place of residence for the 30 days immediately preceding**
 5 **the election.** The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false
 6 statements made by the voter or by the attesting official [OR WITNESS] on the
 7 certificate are punishable by law.

8 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.20.045(b) is amended to read:

9 (b) The director may designate by regulation adopted under AS 44.62
 10 (Administrative Procedure Act) locations at which **early** [ABSENTEE] voting stations
 11 will be operated **for persons to vote absentee ballots** on or after the 15th day before
 12 an election up to and including the date of the election. The director shall supply **these**
 13 [ABSENTEE] voting stations with **absentee** ballots for all house districts in the state
 14 and shall designate absentee voting officials to serve at **the** [ABSENTEE] voting
 15 stations. **A designation as an early voting station under this subsection remains in**
 16 **effect unless**

17 **(1) the location is no longer available for use as an early voting**
 18 **station; or**

19 **(2) the director determines that the location is no longer**
 20 **appropriate for use as an early voting station and makes that determination**
 21 **available to the public in writing.**

22 * **Sec. 17.** AS 15.20.045(c) is amended to read:

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

29 * **Sec. 18.** AS 15.20.050 is amended to read:

30 **Sec. 15.20.050. Requirement of full public notice.** The director shall give full
 31 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. 19.** 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 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(2) to an election supervisor on or after the 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 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 15th day before an election up to and including election day.

* **Sec. 20.** AS 15.20.064(b) is amended to read:

(b) The election supervisor or other election official shall issue a ballot to the voter upon

(1) exhibition of proof of identification as required in AS 15.15.225;

(2) verification that the voter's residence address appearing on the official registration list for that election is current; and

(3) the voter's signing the early voting register.

* **Sec. 21.** AS 15.20.064 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) If a voter's eligibility to vote cannot be verified by the election supervisor or other election official under (b) of this section, the voter shall vote an absentee ballot in the manner provided in AS 15.20.061.

* **Sec. 22.** 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 (1) from an absentee voting official on or after the 15th day before an
2 election, up to and including election day;

3 (2) from an election supervisor on or after the 15th day before an
4 election up to and including election day;

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

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

9 * **Sec. 23.** AS 15.20.081(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) An application requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to the applicant by
11 mail must be received by the division of elections not less than 10 days before the
12 election for which the absentee ballot is sought. An application for an absentee ballot
13 for a state election from a qualified voter requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to
14 the applicant by electronic transmission must be received by the division of elections
15 not later than 5:00 p.m. Alaska time on the day before the election for which the
16 absentee ballot is sought. An absentee ballot application submitted by mail under this
17 section must permit the person to register to vote under AS 15.07.070, to declare an
18 affiliation under AS 15.07.075, if any, and to request an absentee ballot for each state
19 election held within that calendar year for which the voter is eligible to vote. An
20 absentee ballot application submitted by electronic transmission under this section
21 shall [MAY NOT] include a provision that permits a person to register to vote under
22 AS 15.07.070.

23 * **Sec. 24.** AS 15.20.081(d) is amended to read:

24 (d) Upon receipt of an absentee ballot by mail, the voter [, IN THE
25 PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE
26 ARMED FORCES INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, DISTRICT JUDGE
27 OR MAGISTRATE, UNITED STATES POSTAL OFFICIAL, REGISTRATION
28 OFFICIAL, OR OTHER PERSON QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER OATHS,] may
29 proceed to mark the ballot in secret, to place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve, to place
30 the secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided, and to sign and date the voter's
31 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. 25.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(m) An absentee ballot application must include an option for a qualified voter to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state elections. The division may not require a voter who chooses this option to reapply for an absentee ballot by mail unless

(1) the voter has not voted an absentee ballot for a period of four years;

or

(2) the voter's previous absentee ballot sent under this section was returned to the division as undeliverable.

* **Sec. 26.** AS 15.20.201(b) is amended to read:

(b) Counting of absentee ballots that have been reviewed shall begin **not fewer than seven 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. 27.** AS 15.20.203(b) is amended to read:

(b) An absentee ballot may [NOT] be **rejected** [COUNTED] if

(1) the voter has failed to properly **sign and date** [EXECUTE] the

1 certificate;

2 (2) **the voter has failed to provide proof of identification as**
 3 **required by AS 15.20.081(f)** [AN OFFICIAL OR THE WITNESSES
 4 AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO ATTEST THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE FAIL TO
 5 EXECUTE THE CERTIFICATE, EXCEPT THAT AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CAST
 6 IN PERSON AND ACCEPTED BY AN ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR
 7 ELECTION SUPERVISOR MAY BE COUNTED DESPITE FAILURE OF THE
 8 ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION SUPERVISOR TO PROPERLY
 9 SIGN AND DATE THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AS
 10 REQUIRED UNDER AS 15.20.061(c)];

11 (3) the ballot is not **signed** [ATTESTED] on or before the date of the
 12 election;

13 (4) the ballot, if postmarked, is not postmarked on or before the date of
 14 the election;

15 (5) after the day of election, the ballot was delivered by a means other
 16 than mail; or

17 (6) the voter voted

18 (A) in person and is a

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

26 (ii) voter other than one described in (i) of this
 27 subparagraph, did not provide identification described in
 28 AS 15.15.225(a), was not personally known by the election official,
 29 and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and
 30 (3); or

31 (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. 28.** AS 15.20.203(i) is amended to read:

(i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the voter not later than **three days after a ballot has been rejected and in no event later than 10 days after the election if the ballot is rejected by the 10th day after the election. In addition to mailing the material described in (h) of this section, the director may notify a voter by telephone, electronic mail, or text message that a ballot has been rejected**

[(1) 10 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW OF BALLOTS BY THE STATE REVIEW BOARD FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION OR A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.140;

(2) 60 DAYS AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS OF A GENERAL ELECTION OR SPECIAL ELECTION OTHER THAN A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION DESCRIBED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION].

* **Sec. 29.** AS 15.20.203(j) is amended to read:

(j) The director shall make available through a free access system to each absentee voter a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available through the free access system **immediately after the director receives the voter's rejected ballot** [NOT LESS THAN

(1) 10 DAYS AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS OF A

1 PRIMARY ELECTION OR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION UNDER
2 AS 15.40.140; AND

3 (2) 30 DAYS AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS OF A
4 GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION, OTHER THAN A SPECIAL PRIMARY
5 ELECTION DESCRIBED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION].

6 * **Sec. 30.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **Sec. 15.20.204. Curing a rejected absentee ballot.** (a) Not later than the
8 completion of the state ballot counting review, a voter may, in person at a polling
9 location or other location designated by the division or in a sworn affidavit on a form
10 provided by the division, provide proof of identification and cure an absentee ballot
11 rejected because of a voter's failure to

12 (1) sign the certificate;

13 (2) date the certificate or because the voter provides an improper date
14 on the certificate, if received by the division on or before the day of the election; or

15 (3) provide proof of identity as required by AS 15.20.081(f).

16 (b) If a voter's absentee ballot was rejected on or before election day, the voter
17 may attest in a sworn affidavit that the voter's absentee ballot was rejected and mark a
18 questioned ballot.

19 (c) Cured absentee ballots shall be forwarded immediately to the director by
20 the most expeditious service.

21 * **Sec. 31.** AS 15.20.220(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) The state review board shall review and count absentee ballots under
23 AS 15.20.081(e) and (h), absentee ballots properly cured under AS 15.20.204, and
24 questioned ballots that have been forwarded to the director and that have not been
25 reviewed or counted by a district counting board.

26 * **Sec. 32.** AS 15.56.030(d) is amended to read:

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

28 (1) includes

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

1 participant with a maximum of \$100; and

2 (B) government employment or benefits;

3 (2) does not include

4 (A) materials having a nominal value bearing the name,
5 likeness, or other identification of a candidate, political party, political group,
6 party district committee, or organization, or stating a position on a ballot
7 proposition or question;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 * **Sec. 33.** AS 15.80 is amended by adding a new section to read:

24 **Sec. 15.80.009. Election worker minimum compensation.** The division shall
25 pay not less than

26 (1) \$15.00 an hour to election board workers for time spent performing
27 their election duties;

28 (2) \$15.50 an hour to election board chairs for time spent performing
29 their election duties;

30 (3) \$15.00 an hour to district absentee ballot review boards, questioned
31 ballot review boards, and absentee voting officials for time spent performing their

1 election duties;

2 (4) \$15.50 an hour to absentee voting station officials at absentee
3 stations for time spent performing their election duties;

4 (5) \$15.00 an hour to ballot tabulation coordinators, polling place field
5 workers, individuals appointed as personal representatives, and absentee and
6 questioned ballot processors for time spent performing their election duties;

7 (6) \$12.50 an hour to extra election day and election night workers and
8 write-in counting team members for time spent performing their election duties.

9 * **Sec. 34.** AS 15.80.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

10 (47) "electronic signature" has the meaning given in AS 09.80.190.

11 * **Sec. 35.** AS 29.20.380(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) The municipal clerk may act as an absentee voting official under
13 AS 15.20.045(c) for the limited purpose of distributing absentee ballots to qualified
14 voters or qualified voters' representatives under AS 15.20.072 in a municipality in
15 which the division of elections will not be operating an **early** [ABSENTEE] voting
16 station **under AS 15.20.045(b).**

17 * **Sec. 36.** AS 29.26.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (d) Except as a municipality may require for elections held only in specific
19 local election districts or service areas under (b) of this section, a person who has lived
20 within the municipality for at least 30 days, but who has not registered to vote in state
21 elections at a residence address within the municipality at least 30 days before a
22 municipal election, may vote only an absentee, special needs, or questioned ballot in
23 that election.

24 * **Sec. 37.** AS 29.26.050(a)(3) is repealed.

25 * **Sec. 38.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.