

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 129(JUD)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE -SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR MYERS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to information on judicial officers seeking retention in office."

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

* **Section 1.** AS 15.58.030(g) is amended to read:

(g) **Not** [NO] later than August 7 of the year in which the state general election will be held, a person seeking retention in office as a justice or judge may file with the lieutenant governor **the following information, not to exceed 300 words:**

(1) a photograph;

(2) information regarding the residency of the justice or judge;

(3) information regarding the military service of the justice or judge;

(4) information regarding the professional activities of the justice or judge, including public outreach and administrative activities;

(5) any additional information that the justice or judge would like published to support the justice's or judge's [AND A STATEMENT ADVOCATING THE] candidacy.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.58.050 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 15.58.050. Information and recommendations on judicial officers.** Not
3 [NO] later than August 7 of the year in which the state general election will be held,
4 the judicial council shall file with the lieutenant governor a statement including
5 information about each supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, superior court
6 judge, and district court judge who will be subject to a retention election. The
7 statement must [SHALL] reflect the evaluation of each justice or judge conducted by
8 the judicial council according to law and, except for information required by law to
9 be kept confidential, must contain, in fewer than 1,200 words total,

10 (1) for a judge subject to retention,

11 (A) a statement written by the judge, not to exceed 150
12 words, describing the professional philosophy of the judge;

13 (B) a description of the judicial, legal, or other education of
14 the judge;

15 (C) a description of the business experience of and
16 professional positions held by the judge in the preceding 10 years;

17 (D) a list of service organizations with which the judge is
18 affiliated;

19 (E) ratings of the judge by law enforcement officers,
20 attorneys, court system employees, and jurors;

21 (F) the number of decisions by the judge that were
22 appealed and the rate at which the decisions of the judge were affirmed;

23 (G) a description of any public disciplinary proceedings
24 against the judge;

25 (H) a self-assessment by the judge, not to exceed 250 words,
26 evaluating the judge's judicial performance; a self-assessment under this
27 subparagraph may include comments on the judge's satisfaction with the
28 judge's judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of
29 law, growth in legal knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of
30 judicial abilities that the judge believes to be important;

31 (2) for a justice subject to retention, the information required

1 **under (1)(A) - (E), (G), and (H) of this subsection;**

2 **(3) for a justice or judge standing retention for the first time, a**
3 **description of**

4 **(A) previous political and governmental positions held by**
5 **the justice or judge, including any political office held;**

6 **(B) the justice's or judge's primary practice areas before**
7 **appointment, including the approximate percentage of the justice's or**
8 **judge's pre-appointment career spent as a trial lawyer;**

9 **(C) the types of clients the justice or judge represented**
10 **before appointment** [SHALL CONTAIN A BRIEF STATEMENT
11 DESCRIBING EACH PUBLIC REPRIMAND, PUBLIC CENSURE, OR
12 SUSPENSION RECEIVED BY THE JUDGE UNDER AS 22.30.011(d)
13 DURING THE PERIOD COVERED IN THE EVALUATION. A
14 STATEMENT MAY NOT EXCEED 600 WORDS].