

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: 2/15/22

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): SENATOR MYERS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

7 **(1) a photograph;**

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

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

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

13 **(5) any additional information that the justice or judge would like**
14 **published to support the justice's or judge's** [AND A STATEMENT
15 **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 superior court judge or district court judge subject to**
 11 **retention,**

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

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

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

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

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

22 **(F) the number of decisions by the judge that were**
 23 **reviewed and disposed of by a written decision of an appellate court and**
 24 **the percentage of issues in those decisions that were affirmed by the**
 25 **appellate court;**

26 **(G) a description of any public disciplinary proceedings**
 27 **against the judge;**

28 **(H) a self-assessment by the judge, not to exceed 250 words,**
 29 **evaluating the judge's judicial performance; a self-assessment under this**
 30 **subparagraph may include comments on the judge's satisfaction with the**
 31 **judge's judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of**

1 law, growth in legal knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of
2 judicial abilities that the judge believes to be important;

3 (2) for a supreme court justice or court of appeals judge subject to
4 retention, the information required under (1)(A) - (E), (G), and (H) of this
5 subsection;

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

8 (A) previous political and governmental positions held by
9 the justice or judge, including any political office held;

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

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