Sectional Analysis
SB XX Digital Absentee Voting for Certain Voters
Draft
2/14/22

Section 1:   Amends AS 15.20 to require the director to establish a digital absentee voting system that permits qualified voters to receive, mark, verify, cast, and submit an absentee ballot using an internet-connected device.

Requires the system contain cybersecurity measures that:
- Prevent ineligible voters from voting;
- Produce a paper ballot for tabulation and recounts;
- Encrypt data in transit and at rest;
- Detect and prevent successful cyberattacks;
- Protect voter privacy and a voter's right to a secret ballot;
- Enable voters to verify from end to end that the system works correctly;
- Ensure only ballots timely submitted before close of polls are counted;

Requires the system be accessible for voters with disabilities.

Designates qualified voters to use digital absentee voting as:
- Overseas voter;
- Voter eligible to vote a special needs ballot.

Specifies that an application to use the digital absentee voting system must include a statement under penalty of perjury that the voter is qualified to vote a digital ballot.

Requires voters using the digital absentee voting system to comply with all other existing requirements for absentee voting, including signing the voter's certificate in the presence of a notary public or other authorized witness, and submitting the ballot before close of polls on Election Day.

Section 2:   Amends to define "overseas voter" under the federal definition, including
- an active-duty uniformed service member, spouse or dependent currently absent from their home;
- a citizen residing outside of the country.

Section 3:   Effective date of January 1, 2023.