



### **Sectional Analysis**

#### **HB 132 Election: Ballot, Voting, Security**

*“An act relating to election security, voting, and ballots; providing for an effective date.”*

**Section 1.** Adds a new paragraph that stipulates an official ballot must contain a watermark seal or other security identifier, including an election official signature.

**Section 2.** Adds new sections that mandate the director adopt a regulation providing for ballot security and chain of custody and establish an election offense hotline. Ballot security requires strict physical chain of custody protocols, utilizing a barcode or other sufficient system with signature receipt by election officials. This section also requires the director to account for all ballots and preserve their forensic integrity.

**Section 3.** Adds a new section requiring the director to post the election hotline notices in a conspicuous place at all polling locations.

**Section 4.** Amends AS 15.15.250 requiring disposition of spoiled ballots be voided and secured to maintain forensic evidence and strict chain of custody.

**Section 5.** Amends 15.20.020 authorizing the director with administrative supervision authority to implement the use of online multi factor authentication system for tracking absentee ballots.

**Section 6.** Adds a new subsection modifying early voting requirements to allow an absentee voter to vote a question ballot if they do not have sufficient proof of residency



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identification. The election board and candidates will have the opportunity to sufficiently determine if the voter is qualified to vote.

**Section 7.** Amends 15.20.081(e) to provide that a ballot received after the day of the election that is not postmarked or is postmarked after the day of the election may not be counted unless the ballot envelope is marked with the United States Postal Service tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election.

**Section 8.** Amends 15.20.203(b) to close a loophole that allowed a ballot to be counted despite the failure of an absentee voting official or election supervisor to properly sign and date the voters certificate as an official required under 15.20.061. This section requires a United States Postal Service tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election.

**Section 9.** Amends 15.20.220(b) by authorizing the state review board to review and count absentee ballots if the ballots have been properly cured. Refers to the new section 15.20.222 that sets up the procedure for curing uncounted ballots.

**Section 10.** Adds a new section mandating the director establish an online multi factor authentication (MFA) system and outlines procedure for curing an uncounted ballot.

**Section 11.** Adds new subsections requiring the division to conduct routine forensic examination of each precinct tabulator before and after the election. Prohibits any connectivity to the internet or a cellular network. Requires a strict chain of custody protocol for precinct tabulators in a separate storage device and requires the division to provide a technical subject matter expert appointment for supervised access to all election data algorithm software equipment including precinct tabulator storage devices body machines and vote tally systems.



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**Section 12.** Adds a new section requiring the director to develop a cyber security program to keep election data safe.

**Section 13.** Amends 24.20.060 granting the Legislative Council powers to provide a contractual technical subject matter expert to conduct a full forensic audit of voting machines, tabulators, storage devices, and vote tally systems.

**Section 14.** Adds a new section to the uncodified law allowing transitional regulations.

**Section 15.** Section 14 of the bill has an immediate effective date to allow transitional regulations.

**Section 16.** Excluding section 15 (immediate effective date,) allows the remainder of the bill to take effect January 1, 2024.