

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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### SB 1 Sponsor Statement

**"An Act relating to election security, voting, and ballots; and providing for an effective date."**

Senate Bill 1 was drafted to address concerns with chain of custody, ballot security, reporting election offenses, preserving forensic integrity of ballots, multi factor authentication, ballot curing, ballot tracking, cybersecurity and Legislative Council's authority to contract with technical experts.

This measure is part of the bill sponsor's policy metric to make it easy to vote, yet hard to cheat. When voting policy makes it easier to vote, the downside is it may make it easier to cheat. This creates the public perception that our sacred right to vote is ripe for fraud and undermines voter confidence. When voting policy is to make it harder to cheat, it makes it harder to vote. This makes some cry claims of voter suppression. This bill attempts to apply the policy metric of making it easy to vote, yet hard to cheat, which most people can agree upon.

Ballot chain of custody protocols must be strengthened to assure every ballot gets tracked from printer until 22 months after the election. Destroying extra ballots in precinct exposes the election system to plausible fraud by destroying forensic integrity of said ballot.

There is no widely published election offence system, nor is there anyone tasked with being an election fraud expert in the Department of Law or the Division of Elections. Election laws are complex and confusing. Creating an election offence hotline with staff trained in understanding potential fraud issues will keep people accountable and build public confidence.

Multifactor Authentication is a widely accepted practice with multiple out of the box options in a very competitive market. Alaska's election data has been hacked more than once, including security identifiers of the voters. There is nothing that prevents a hacker armed with DOE's list, from applying electronically for an absentee ballot from an over inflated voter roll picking inactive voters, apply for their ballot using the security identifiers, then commit the perfect crime by voting for them, or worse doing it on a large scale to tip a tight race in the "right" direction. Signature comparison is expensive to implement, time consuming, and still subject to human error. The private sector gets it and most Alaskan's use it. Redundant manual backup must be developed for areas still not technically feasible to implement.

Ballot curing is part of the effort to make it easier to vote and not disqualify disadvantaged voters or those that simply make a clerical error. Plus, when incorporated into a "Ballotrax" type proven system, it offers great ballot chain of custody tracking and a low maintenance way to notify deficient voters. The bill sponsor's goal is to make every qualified voter eligible to vote.

SB 1 increases cybersecurity by requiring the director to write and implement a cybersecurity plan, to facilitate training election officials to look for those with nefarious intent. It also mandates that the director develop a non-published list of voters whose numerical identifiers have been compromised, so election works can be extra diligent when scrutinizing validity of said voters.

Lastly but not least, expressly authorizes the Legislative Council to hire technical experts to conduct full forensic audits to verify the security of an election.