

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 43(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SCHRAGE, Edgmon, Burke, Holland, Galvin, Himschoot

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voter registration; relating to**
2 **election administration; relating to the crime of unlawful interference with voting;**
3 **relating to campaign signs; relating to the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to**
4 **public official financial disclosures; and providing for an effective date."**

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 15.05.010 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 15.05.010. Voter qualification.** A person may vote at any election who

8 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

9 (2) is 18 years of age or older;

10 (3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which
11 the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and

12 (4) has registered [BEFORE THE ELECTION] as required under
13 AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.05.020 is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 15.05.020. Rules for determining residence of voter.** For the purpose of
2 determining residence for voting, the place of residence is governed by the following
3 rules:

4 (1) A person may not be considered to have gained a residence solely
5 by reason of presence nor may a person lose it solely by reason of absence while in the
6 civil or military service of this state or of the United States or of absence because of
7 marriage to a person engaged in the civil or military service of this state or the United
8 States, while a student at an institution of learning, while in an institution or asylum at
9 public expense, while confined in public prison, while engaged in the navigation of
10 waters of this state or the United States or of the high seas, while residing on [UPON]
11 an Indian or military reservation, or while residing in the Alaska Pioneers' Home or
12 the Alaska Veterans' Home.

13 (2) The residence of a person is that place in which the person's
14 **physical** habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever absent, the person has **an**
15 **articulable and reasonable plan** [THE INTENTION] to return. If a person resides in
16 one place, but does business in another, the former is the person's place of residence.
17 Temporary work sites do not constitute a dwelling place.

18 (3) [A CHANGE OF RESIDENCE IS MADE ONLY BY THE ACT
19 OF REMOVAL JOINED WITH THE INTENT TO REMAIN IN ANOTHER
20 PLACE.] There can only be one residence.

21 (4) A person does not lose residence if the person leaves home and
22 goes to another country, state, or place in this state for temporary purposes only and
23 with the intent of returning **to the person's residence**.

24 (5) A person does not gain residence in any place to which the person
25 comes without the present intention to establish a permanent dwelling at that place.

26 (6) A person loses residence in this state if the person **establishes**
27 **residence in another state or** votes in another state's election, either in person or by
28 absentee ballot, and will not be eligible to vote in this state until again qualifying
29 under AS 15.05.010.

30 (7) The term of residence is computed by including the day on which
31 the person's residence begins and excluding the day of election.

1 (8) The address of a voter as it appears on the official voter registration
 2 record is presumptive evidence of the person's voting residence. This presumption is
 3 negated [ONLY] if the voter notifies the director in writing of a change of voting
 4 residence. **When a voter's qualification is questioned under AS 15.15.210 or**
 5 **challenged in accordance with the procedure adopted in regulation under**
 6 **AS 15.20.215, the presumption may be rebutted by providing evidence to the**
 7 **division that the voter has established residence in another state or place in this**
 8 **state or evidence that the voter is not a resident under (2) - (7) of this section.**

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

10 (g) The division shall provide an applicant the opportunity to designate, from
 11 among the written languages in which the division is required to print election
 12 materials under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, the language in which the applicant
 13 prefers to receive ballots and other election materials printed for an election. The
 14 division shall provide the applicant with ballots and election materials in the
 15 applicant's designated language unless the applicant designates a language in which
 16 the division is not required to print ballots and election materials. The division shall
 17 notify an applicant when ballots and election materials printed in the designated
 18 language are not available and allow the applicant another opportunity to designate a
 19 language under this subsection. The division shall provide an applicant with ballots
 20 and election materials in the designated language until the earlier of the date that

21 (1) the applicant's voter registration is inactivated or cancelled; or

22 (2) the division is no longer required under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as
 23 amended, to print ballots and election materials in the designated language.

24 (h) An applicant who requests registration within 30 days before an election
 25 shall supply a declaration stating whether the applicant established residency at least
 26 30 days before the date of the election in

27 (1) the state;

28 (2) the house district in which the applicant seeks to vote at the
 29 election.

30 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.070(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) To register by mail or by facsimile, scanning, or other electronic

1 transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, the director, the area
2 election supervisor, or a voter registration agency shall furnish, at no cost to the voter,
3 forms prepared by the director on which the registration information required under
4 AS 15.07.060 shall be inserted by the voter, by a person on behalf of the voter if that
5 person is designated to act on behalf of the voter in a power of attorney, or by a person
6 on behalf of the voter if the voter is physically incapacitated. **The director shall**
7 **accept the electronic signature of the voter or a person acting on behalf of the**
8 **voter.** The director may require proof of identification of the applicant as required by
9 regulations adopted by the director under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).
10 Upon receipt and approval of the completed registration forms, the director or the
11 election supervisor shall forward to the voter an acknowledgment, and the voter's
12 name shall immediately be placed on the master register. If the registration is denied,
13 the voter shall immediately be informed in writing that registration was denied and the
14 reason for denial. When identifying information has been provided by the voter as
15 required by this chapter, the election supervisor shall forward to the voter a
16 registration card.

17 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.07.070(c) is amended to read:

18 (c) The names of persons submitting completed registration forms by mail that
19 are postmarked at least 30 days before the next election, or submitting completed
20 registration forms by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the
21 director under AS 15.07.050 that are received at least 30 days before the next election,
22 shall be placed on the official registration list for that election. If a registration form
23 received by mail less than 30 days before an election does not have a legible and dated
24 postmark, the name of the person submitting the form shall be placed on the official
25 registration list for that election if the form was signed and dated by the person at least
26 30 days before the election and if the form is received by the director or election
27 supervisor at least 25 days before the election. The name of a person submitting a
28 completed registration form by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission
29 that does not meet the applicable requirements of this subsection may not be placed on
30 the official registration list for that election but shall be placed on the master register
31 after that election. **A person submitting a completed registration form that does**

1 **not meet the requirements of this subsection for placement on the master register**
2 **for the next election but who complies with AS 15.07.060(h) may vote an absentee**
3 **in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot at that election.**

4 * **Sec. 6.** AS 15.07.070(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) Qualified voters may register in person before a registration official or
6 through a voter registration agency at any time throughout the year. **A qualified voter**
7 **who registers** [, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON REGISTERING] within 30 days **before**
8 **or on the day of an election may vote only an absentee in-person, special needs, or**
9 **questioned ballot** [PRECEDING AN ELECTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE] at
10 that election. **The division may not reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or**
11 **questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registers within 30 days before or on**
12 **the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official**
13 **registration list for the election.** Upon receipt and approval of the registration forms,
14 the director or the election supervisor shall forward to the voter an acknowledgment in
15 the form of a registration card, and the voter's name shall immediately be placed on
16 the master register. Names of persons registering 30 or more days before an election
17 shall be placed on the official registration list for that election.

18 * **Sec. 7.** AS 15.07.070(h) is amended to read:

19 (h) The director shall design the form of the voter's certificate appearing on
20 the envelope that is used for voting an absentee in-person, **special needs,** or
21 questioned ballot so that all information required for registration by AS 15.07.060(a)
22 may be obtained from a voter who votes an absentee in-person, **special needs,** or
23 questioned ballot. **The form must include the instruction that a person registering**
24 **to vote using the voter's certificate who wishes to declare the person's affiliation**
25 **should complete the affiliation section on the certificate.** If the voter voting an
26 absentee in-person, **special needs,** or questioned ballot has completed all information
27 on the voter registration portion of the absentee in-person, **special needs,** or
28 questioned ballot voter's certificate, the director shall place the name of the voter on
29 the official registration list.

30 * **Sec. 8.** AS 15.07.090(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) A voter shall reregister if the voter's registration is cancelled as provided in

1 AS 15.07.130. A person reregistering under this subsection may vote only an
 2 absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot until [THE
 3 REREGISTRATION IS EFFECTIVE FOR] the next election that occurs at least 30
 4 days after the date of reregistration. The division may not reject the absentee in-
 5 person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who reregisters
 6 within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is
 7 not on the official registration list for the election.

8 * Sec. 9. AS 15.07.090(c) is amended to read:

9 (c) The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one precinct to
 10 another within a house district when requested by the voter. If a [THE] request is
 11 [SHALL BE] made within 30 [OR MORE] days before [THE] election day or on
 12 election day, a person transferring registration to a new precinct may vote only
 13 an absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot. The division may not
 14 reject the absentee in-person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified
 15 voter who transfers registration within 30 days before or on the day of an election
 16 on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election.

17 The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one house district to another
 18 when requested by the voter. The voter must reside in the new house district for at
 19 least 30 days in order to vote a ballot for that district.

20 * Sec. 10. AS 15.07.090(d) is amended to read:

21 (d) A person who claims to be a registered voter, but for whom no evidence of
 22 registration in the precinct can be found, may vote only an absentee in-person,
 23 special needs, or questioned ballot. The division may not reject the absentee in-
 24 person, special needs, or questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registers
 25 within 30 days before or on the day of an election on the grounds that the voter is
 26 not on the official registration list for the election [SHALL BE GRANTED THE
 27 RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THAT OF A QUESTIONED
 28 VOTER AND THE BALLOT SHALL BE TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER.
 29 THE BALLOT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A "QUESTIONED BALLOT"
 30 AND SHALL BE SO DESIGNATED. THE DIRECTOR OR THE DIRECTOR'S
 31 REPRESENTATIVE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE VOTER IS

1 REGISTERED IN THE HOUSE DISTRICT BEFORE COUNTING THE BALLOT.
 2 A VOTER WHO HAS FAILED TO OBTAIN A TRANSFER AS PROVIDED IN (c)
 3 OF THIS SECTION SHALL VOTE A "QUESTIONED BALLOT" IN THE
 4 PRECINCT IN WHICH THE VOTER RESIDES].

5 * **Sec. 11.** AS 15.07.130(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) Periodically, at times of the director's choosing, but **not** [NO] less
 7 frequently than in January of each calendar year, the director shall examine the master
 8 register maintained under AS 15.07.120 and shall send, by **forwardable**
 9 [NONFORWARDABLE] mail to the voter's registration mailing address, **and to the**
 10 **voter's electronic mail address, if available**, a notice requesting address
 11 confirmation or correction. **The notice must explain that the voter's registration**
 12 **will be inactivated unless the voter responds to the notice within 45 days after the**
 13 **date the notice is sent. The director shall send the notice** to each voter

14 (1) whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in
 15 the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register;

16 (2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately
 17 preceding the examination of the register **and** [; OR (3)] who has not voted or
 18 appeared to vote in the two general elections immediately preceding the examination
 19 of the register; **or**

20 **(3) who the division has learned, after registering to vote in this**
 21 **state and during the period encompassing the two general elections immediately**
 22 **preceding the examination of the register, has**

23 **(A) registered to vote in another state;**

24 **(B) received a driver's license from another state;**

25 **(C) registered a vehicle in another state;**

26 **(D) received public assistance from another state;**

27 **(E) served on a jury in another state;**

28 **(F) obtained a resident hunting or fishing license in another**
 29 **state;**

30 **(G) paid the state resident tuition rate for a public**
 31 **university in another state;**

1 **(H) received a homestead or residential property tax**
2 **exemption in another state; or**
3 **(I) received a benefit available only to residents of another**
4 **state.**

5 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.07.130(e) is amended to read:

6 (e) For purposes of (b) and (d) of this section, a voter "appears to vote" if

7 (1) the voter is present at a polling place or at an **early** [ABSENTEE]
8 voting station **designated under AS 15.20.045(b)** at a time when the polling place or
9 **early** [ABSENTEE] voting station is operating, for the purpose of casting a vote;

10 (2) the voter applies to the division to obtain an absentee ballot; or

11 (3) in an election conducted by mail under AS 15.20.800, a voter who
12 has not received a ballot by mail makes a timely request to the division for a ballot.

13 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **Sec. 15.07.133. Process to cancel registration.** The director shall develop a
15 process to allow a voter to cancel the voter's registration electronically or in person
16 before an election official. The director shall prominently display instructions for a
17 voter to cancel the voter's registration at each polling place.

18 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.10.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (c) The director shall employ five rural community liaisons and assign each
20 liaison to a region of the state in a manner that ensures each part of the state has one
21 rural community liaison. The rural community liaisons shall collaborate with tribes,
22 municipalities, corporations incorporated under AS 10.06, regional nonprofit
23 corporations, and other community organizations to facilitate access to early and
24 absentee voting in rural areas of the state and ensure that precincts in rural areas of the
25 state are fully staffed.

26 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.13.020(j) is amended to read:

27 (j) The commission shall establish **offices** [AN OFFICE, WHICH MAY BE
28 CALLED A REGIONAL OFFICE, IN EACH SENATE DISTRICT IN THE STATE
29 TO KEEP ON FILE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION COPIES OF ALL REPORTS
30 FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE
31 AND BY CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE IN THAT DISTRICT;

1 HOWEVER, WHERE ONE MUNICIPALITY CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE
2 HOUSE DISTRICT, ONLY ONE COMMISSION OFFICE SHALL BE
3 ESTABLISHED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY. THE REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL
4 MAKE ALL FORMS AND PERTINENT MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO
5 CANDIDATES. ALL REPORTS SHALL BE FILED BY CANDIDATES, GROUPS,
6 AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL
7 DISTRICT OFFICE. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT COPIES OF
8 ALL REPORTS BY STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN EACH
9 SENATE DISTRICT ARE FORWARDED PROMPTLY TO THAT DISTRICT OR
10 REGIONAL OFFICE].

11 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.15.060(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) Immediately following the appointment of the election board, the election
13 supervisor in conjunction with the election board chair shall secure polling places for
14 holding the election, suitable ballot boxes that will ensure [ASSURE] security, and an
15 adequate number of voting booths or screens, national flags, pens, and pencils. At
16 every polling place, at least one voting booth shall be furnished and not less than one
17 voting booth or screen shall be furnished for each 100 votes or fractional part of 100
18 votes cast in the previous election. [AT EVERY POLLING PLACE, AT LEAST
19 ONE-HALF OF THE VOTING BOOTHS USED SHALL BE NOT LESS THAN SIX
20 FEET IN HEIGHT, ENCLOSED ON THREE SIDES, AND PROVIDED WITH A
21 CURTAIN EXTENDING FROM THE TOP OF THE VOTING BOOTH TO
22 WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 30 INCHES OF THE FLOOR. THE CURTAIN OF
23 THE VOTING BOOTH MUST CONCEAL THE VOTER WHILE VOTING.] The
24 election supervisor and the election board chair may, in an emergency, secure an
25 alternate location for a polling place.

26 * **Sec. 17.** AS 15.15.060(b) is amended to read:

27 (b) To ensure [ASSURE] administrative economy and to protect the secrecy
28 of the ballot, the director may adopt regulations prescribing
29 (1) the type of polling place for holding the election;
30 (2) the requirements regarding ballot boxes, voting screens, national
31 flags, and other supplies; and

1 (3) [SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF (a) OF THIS
2 SECTION,] the requirements regarding voting booths.

3 * **Sec. 18.** AS 15.15.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (f) At each polling place, the division shall provide language assistance as
5 required under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended. An election supervisor shall post at each
6 polling place information regarding the availability of language assistance in English
7 and all other languages for which language assistance is required to be provided in the
8 jurisdiction under federal law.

9 * **Sec. 19.** AS 15.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Sec. 15.15.205. Questioning of voter who requested absentee ballot.** If a
11 voter appears on the official registration list as having received or voted an absentee
12 ballot, the election official shall affirmatively advise the voter that the voter may
13 surrender the absentee ballot for destruction or cast a questioned ballot. If the voter
14 does not surrender the absentee ballot, the voter shall be allowed to vote a questioned
15 ballot.

16 * **Sec. 20.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 15.15.370. Results [COMPLETION] of ballot count [;**
18 **CERTIFICATE].** When the count of ballots is completed, and in no event later than
19 the day after the election, the election board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the
20 results. The certificate includes the number of votes cast for each candidate, including,
21 for a candidate in a general election, the number of votes at each **ranking performed**
22 **[ROUND OF THE RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION PROCESS]** under
23 AS 15.15.350, the number of votes for and against each proposition, yes or no on each
24 question, and any additional information prescribed by the director. The election board
25 shall, immediately upon completion of the certificate or as soon thereafter as the local
26 mail service permits, send in one sealed package to the director one copy of the
27 certificate and the register. In addition, all ballots properly cast shall be mailed to the
28 director in a separate, sealed package. Both packages, in addition to an address on the
29 outside, shall clearly indicate the precinct from which they come. Each board shall,
30 immediately upon completion of the certification and as soon thereafter as the local
31 mail service permits, send the duplicate certificate to the respective election

1 supervisor. The director may authorize election boards in precincts in those areas of
2 the state where distance and weather make mail communication unreliable to forward
3 their election results by telephone or radio. The director may authorize the unofficial
4 totaling of votes on a regional basis by election supervisors, tallying the votes as
5 indicated on duplicate certificates. **If the director publishes unofficial results, the**
6 **director shall include, for each candidate, the subsequent candidate rankings**
7 **selected by the voters who ranked that candidate as the voters' first choice.** To
8 ensure adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the
9 ballots, registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved,
10 transferred, and destroyed.

11 * **Sec. 21.** AS 15.15.370 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (b) Each day that the director releases unofficial totals of election results for a
13 general election, the director shall also release an updated ranked-choice tabulation
14 and identify the precincts that have been counted.

15 * **Sec. 22.** AS 15.15.380 is amended to read:

16 **Sec. 15.15.380. Payment of election board members.** The director shall pay
17 each election board member for time spent at election duties, including the receiving
18 of instructions. Election board chairpersons and the chairperson and members of the
19 absentee ballot, questioned ballot, and state ballot counting review boards shall be
20 paid for time spent at their election duties. The director shall set the compensation to
21 be paid under this section. **The director may reduce the compensation to be paid**
22 **under this section only** by regulation.

23 * **Sec. 23.** AS 15.15.420 is amended to read:

24 **Sec. 15.15.420. Duty to review the ballot counting.** The director shall review
25 the counting of the ballots with the assistance of and in the presence of the appointed
26 representatives from the political parties. **A candidate for an office that is on the**
27 **ballots being counted and appointed representatives from the group supporting**
28 **and from the group opposing a ballot proposition may be present and assist.**

29 * **Sec. 24.** AS 15.15.430(a) is amended to read:

30 (a) The review of ballot counting by the director **must** [SHALL] include
31 [ONLY (1)] a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast. **The review**

1 **must include** [; (2)] a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law.
 2 **The review must include, for each house district except a house district where all**
 3 **racess on the ballot are uncontested** [; AND (3) UNLESS THE BALLOT FOR THE
 4 HOUSE DISTRICT CONTAINS NOTHING BUT UNCONTESTED OFFICES], a
 5 hand count of ballots from one randomly selected precinct in **the** [EACH] house
 6 district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district. **The**
 7 **director may adopt regulations prescribing additional review procedures**
 8 **employing statistical methods to limit the risk of certifying an election result that**
 9 **would be inconsistent with the result that would be obtained by conducting a**
 10 **recount.**

11 * **Sec. 25.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material.** The
 13 director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director
 14 shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot,
 15 and shall provide **a postage-paid return** [AN] envelope with the prescribed voter's
 16 certificate on it, in which the secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The
 17 director shall prescribe the form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and
 18 other material used in absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a
 19 declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a
 20 blank for the voter's signature, **and a space for recording the date that the voter**
 21 **signed the certificate. An envelope may not identify a voter's party affiliation** [, A
 22 CERTIFICATION THAT THE AFFIANT PROPERLY EXECUTED THE
 23 MARKING OF THE BALLOT AND GAVE THE VOTER'S IDENTITY, BLANKS
 24 FOR THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS, AND A PLACE FOR
 25 RECORDING THE DATE THE ENVELOPE WAS SEALED AND WITNESSED].
 26 The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false statements
 27 made by the voter [OR BY THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS] on the
 28 certificate are punishable by law.

29 * **Sec. 26.** AS 15.20.045 is amended to read:

30 **Sec. 15.20.045. Designation of absentee voting officials and stations.** (a)
 31 The director or election supervisor may designate persons to act as absentee voting

1 officials under AS 15.20.010 - 15.20.220 in areas where election supervisors do not
2 have offices. Magistrates may, with the approval of the administrative director of the
3 Alaska Court System, be designated under this section. At least **30** [15] days before
4 the election the director shall supply each absentee voting official with appropriate
5 ballots.

6 (b) The director may designate by regulation [ADOPTED UNDER AS 44.62
7 (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT)] locations at which **early** [ABSENTEE]
8 voting stations will be operated **for persons to vote absentee ballots** on or after the
9 **30th** [15TH] day before an election up to and including the date of the election. The
10 director shall supply **these** [ABSENTEE] voting stations with **absentee** ballots for all
11 house districts in the state and shall designate absentee voting officials to serve at **the**
12 [ABSENTEE] voting stations.

13 (c) In a municipality in which the division will not be operating an **early**
14 [ABSENTEE] voting station **under this section**, the director may designate the
15 municipal clerk as an absentee voting official for the limited purpose of distributing
16 absentee ballots to qualified voters under AS 15.20.061(a)(1) and qualified voters'
17 representatives under AS 15.20.072. At least **30** [15] days before the election, the
18 director shall supply municipal clerks designated under this subsection with absentee
19 ballots.

20 * **Sec. 27.** AS 15.20.050 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 15.20.050. Requirement of full public notice.** The director shall give full
22 public notice of the dates and manner of voting absentee and may select any means of
23 communication permitted to be used in giving notice of the date and time of the
24 general election. The director shall give notice under this section of the location of
25 **early** [ABSENTEE] voting stations **designated under AS 15.20.045(b)** at least 45
26 days before each election.

27 * **Sec. 28.** AS 15.20.061(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) A qualified voter may apply in person for an absentee ballot to the
29 following election officials at the times specified:

30 (1) to an absentee voting official on or after the **20th** [15TH] day
31 before an election up to and including the date of the election;

1 (2) to an election supervisor on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an
2 election up to and including the date of the election;

3 (3) to an absentee voting official at an early [ABSENTEE] voting
4 station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an
5 election up to and including the date of the election;

6 (4) to an absentee voting official in the precinct in which no volunteers
7 can be located to serve on the election board on or after the 20th [15TH] day before an
8 election up to and including election day.

9 * **Sec. 29.** AS 15.20.064(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) For 20 [15] days before an election and on election day, a qualified voter
11 who meets the requirements set out in this section may vote in locations designated by
12 the director.

13 * **Sec. 30.** AS 15.20.064 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (e) If a voter fails to satisfy the requirements of (b) of this section, the voter
15 shall be allowed to vote an absentee ballot in the manner provided in AS 15.20.061.

16 * **Sec. 31.** AS 15.20.072(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) The voter may, through a representative, request a special needs ballot
18 from the following election officials at the times specified:

19 (1) from an absentee voting official on or after the 30th [15TH] day
20 before an election, up to and including election day;

21 (2) from an election supervisor on or after the 30th [15TH] day before
22 an election up to and including election day;

23 (3) from an absentee voting official at an early [ABSENTEE] voting
24 station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 30th [15TH] day before an
25 election up to and including the date of the election; or

26 (4) from a member of the precinct election board on election day.

27 * **Sec. 32.** AS 15.20.072 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (h) If a voter satisfies the requirements of (d) of this section, the division may
29 not reject a voter's special needs ballot based on an error by an election official or
30 representative on the register under (c) of this section or an error by a representative
31 under (d) of this section.

1 * **Sec. 33.** AS 15.20.081(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) Upon receipt of an absentee ballot by mail, the voter [, IN THE
3 PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE
4 ARMED FORCES INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, DISTRICT JUDGE
5 OR MAGISTRATE, UNITED STATES POSTAL OFFICIAL, REGISTRATION
6 OFFICIAL, OR OTHER PERSON QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER OATHS,] may
7 proceed to mark the ballot in secret, to place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve, to place
8 the secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided, and to sign the voter's certificate on the
9 envelope. The [IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICIAL LISTED IN THIS
10 SUBSECTION WHO SHALL SIGN AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AND SHALL
11 DATE THE SIGNATURE. IF NONE OF THE OFFICIALS LISTED IN THIS
12 SUBSECTION IS REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE, AN ABSENTEE VOTER
13 SHALL SIGN THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN
14 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, WHO SHALL SIGN AS
15 A WITNESS AND ATTEST TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE VOTER SIGNED
16 THE CERTIFICATE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRESENCE, AND, IN ADDITION,
17 THE] voter shall certify, as prescribed in AS 09.63.020, under penalty of perjury, that
18 the statements in the voter's certification are true.

19 * **Sec. 34.** AS 15.20.081(e) is amended to read:

20 (e) An absentee ballot must be marked on or before the date of the election.
21 Except as provided in (h) of this section, a voter who returns the absentee ballot by
22 mail, whether provided to the voter by mail or by electronic transmission, shall use a
23 mail service at least equal to first class and mail the ballot not later than the day of the
24 election to the election supervisor for the house district in which the voter seeks to
25 vote. Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, the ballot may not be counted unless it is
26 received by the close of business on the 10th day after the election. [IF THE BALLOT
27 IS POSTMARKED, IT MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE ELECTION
28 DAY.] After the day of the election, ballots may not be accepted unless received by
29 mail. A ballot received after the day of the election that is not postmarked or is
30 postmarked after the day of the election may not be counted unless the ballot
31 envelope is marked with a United States Postal Service tracking barcode

1 **sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election**
2 **or with a division of elections ballot tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the**
3 **ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election.**

4 * **Sec. 35.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (m) If a voter requests under AS 15.07.060(g) or, at least 45 days before an
6 election, requests in writing or by other means designated in regulations adopted by
7 the director to receive a ballot in a language other than English in which the division is
8 required to print election materials under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, the director
9 shall provide the voter with a ballot and election materials under this section in the
10 language requested.

11 * **Sec. 36.** AS 15.20.201(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) **Not** [NO] less than **10** [SEVEN] days preceding the day of election, the
13 election supervisor, in the presence and with the assistance of the district absentee
14 ballot counting board, shall **begin to** review all voter certificates **and envelopes** of
15 absentee ballots received by that date. The review of absentee ballots shall continue at
16 times designated by the election supervisor until completed. **An absentee ballot may**
17 **not be counted until the accompanying voter certificate has been reviewed.**

18 * **Sec. 37.** AS 15.20.201(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) Counting of absentee ballots that have been reviewed shall begin **not less**
20 **than 10 days preceding** [AT 8:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON] the day of the election
21 at places designated by each election supervisor and shall continue until all absentee
22 ballots reviewed and eligible for counting have been counted. The counting teams
23 shall report the **first** count of absentee ballots to the district absentee ballot counting
24 board **not later than** [. AN ELECTION SUPERVISOR OR AN ELECTION
25 OFFICIAL MAY NOT COUNT ABSENTEE BALLOTS BEFORE] 8:00 p.m., local
26 time, on the day of the election. Counting of the absentee ballots shall continue at
27 times designated by the election supervisor until all absentee ballots are counted.

28 * **Sec. 38.** AS 15.20.203(b) is amended to read:

29 (b) **The board shall reject an** [AN] absentee ballot [MAY NOT BE
30 COUNTED] if

31 (1) the voter has failed to properly **sign** [EXECUTE] the certificate;

1 (2) [AN OFFICIAL OR THE WITNESSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW
2 TO ATTEST THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE FAIL TO EXECUTE THE
3 CERTIFICATE, EXCEPT THAT AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CAST IN PERSON
4 AND ACCEPTED BY AN ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION
5 SUPERVISOR MAY BE COUNTED DESPITE FAILURE OF THE ABSENTEE
6 VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION SUPERVISOR TO PROPERLY SIGN AND
7 DATE THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AS REQUIRED
8 UNDER AS 15.20.061(c);

9 (3) THE BALLOT IS NOT ATTESTED ON OR BEFORE THE
10 DATE OF THE ELECTION;

11 (4)] the ballot **envelope and certificate**, if **delivered by mail after the**
12 **day of the election** [POSTMARKED],

13 (A) is [NOT] postmarked **after** [ON OR BEFORE] the date of
14 the election; **or**

15 (B) **has a United States Postal Service tracking barcode or a**
16 **division of elections ballot tracking barcode verifying that the ballot was**
17 **mailed after the date of the election;**

18 (3) [(5)] after the day of election, the ballot was delivered by a means
19 other than mail; **or**

20 (4) [OR (6)] the voter voted

21 (A) in person and is a

22 (i) first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by
23 facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director
24 under AS 15.07.050, has not provided the identification required by
25 AS 15.15.225(a), was not eligible for waiver of the identification
26 requirement under AS 15.15.225(b), and has not provided the
27 identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3) that can be verified
28 through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e); or

29 (ii) voter other than one described in (i) of this
30 subparagraph, did not provide identification described in
31 AS 15.15.225(a), was not personally known by the election official,

1 and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and
2 (3); or

3 (B) by mail or electronic transmission, is a first-time voter who
4 initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission
5 approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 to vote, has not met the
6 identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060, and does not submit with
7 the ballot a copy of a

8 (i) driver's license, state identification card, current and
9 valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or
10 fishing license; or

11 (ii) current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck,
12 government check, or other government document; an item described
13 in this sub-subparagraph must show the name and current address of
14 the voter.

15 * **Sec. 39.** AS 15.20.220(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) The state review board shall review and count absentee ballots under
17 AS 15.20.081(e) and (h), **absentee ballots properly cured under AS 15.20.222**, and
18 questioned ballots that have been forwarded to the director and that have not been
19 reviewed or counted by a district counting board.

20 * **Sec. 40.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

21 **Sec. 15.20.222. Procedure for curing uncounted ballot.** (a) If a voter returns
22 a ballot that is rejected because the certificate is missing a signature or the voter
23 provided insufficient voter identification, the director shall immediately make a
24 reasonable effort to contact the voter, explain the ballot deficiency, explain how the
25 deficiency may be cured, and inform the voter of the deadline to cure the ballot. The
26 director shall, within 24 hours, attempt to begin sending notices of deficiency by
27 electronic mail to the voter's electronic mail address if the voter has provided an
28 electronic mail address. If the voter has provided a telephone number, the director
29 shall, within 24 hours, attempt to notify the voter of the deficiency by telephone call
30 and text message. The director shall, within 48 hours and not later than five days after
31 election day, send a notice of deficiency by first class, nonforwardable mail to the

1 address on the voter's registration record.

2 (b) A notice of deficiency must include a form for the voter to confirm that the
3 voter returned a ballot to the division and provide a copy of a form of identification
4 accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a). The director shall provide a printed
5 copy of the form with the notice of deficiency mailed to the voter. The director shall
6 also make the form available in a format that can be completed and returned
7 electronically.

8 (c) The rejected ballot of a voter who received a notice of deficiency may be
9 counted only if

10 (1) the voter returns the form sent with the notice of deficiency, the
11 division receives the form within 14 days after election day, and the form confirms
12 that the voter returned a ballot to the division;

13 (2) the voter provides a signature and includes a copy of a form of
14 identification accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a); and

15 (3) the ballot is otherwise valid.

16 (d) The director shall, if applicable, send copies of the signature on the voter's
17 return envelope and the signature stored in voter registration records to the attorney
18 general for investigation if the voter returns the form and the form indicates that the
19 voter did not return a ballot to the division.

20 * **Sec. 41.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

21 **Sec. 15.20.810. Drop boxes for elections conducted by mail.** For an election
22 conducted by mail, the director shall provide secure ballot drop boxes. The director
23 shall adopt regulations governing the use and location of ballot drop boxes. If
24 practicable, the director shall provide a drop box at each division regional office. The
25 director shall, for a municipality with over 20,000 residents, provide one drop box for
26 each 20,000 residents in locations chosen to ensure that drop boxes are accessible to
27 the most possible voters. When selecting drop box locations, the director may consult
28 with municipalities, school districts, tribal organizations, and nonpartisan civic
29 organizations. The director may provide a drop box in a municipality with fewer than
30 20,000 residents. The director shall include in the regulations the criteria for selecting
31 the locations of drop boxes, the security requirements for the drop boxes, and a

1 requirement that drop boxes be open 24 hours a day in the 10 days before an election
2 day. The regulations must require that each drop box be open on the election day until
3 8:00 p.m.

4 * **Sec. 42.** AS 15.56.030(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) For purposes of (a)(2) and (3) of this section, "other valuable thing"

6 (1) includes

7 (A) an entry in a game of chance in which a prize of money or
8 other present or future pecuniary gain or advantage may be awarded to a
9 participant wherein the total of the prizes offered is greater than \$2 per
10 participant with a maximum of \$100; and

11 (B) government employment or benefits;

12 (2) does not include

13 (A) materials having a nominal value bearing the name,
14 likeness, or other identification of a candidate, political party, political group,
15 party district committee, or organization, or stating a position on a ballot
16 proposition or question;

17 (B) food and refreshments provided incidental to an activity
18 that is nonpartisan in nature and directed at encouraging persons to vote, or
19 incidental to a gathering in support of or in opposition to a candidate, political
20 party, political group, party district committee, organization, or ballot question
21 or proposition;

22 (C) care of the voter's dependents provided in connection with
23 the absence of a voter from home for the purpose of voting;

24 (D) services provided by a person acting as a representative
25 under AS 15.20.072;

26 (E) services provided by an election official as defined in
27 AS 15.80.010; [AND]

28 (F) transportation of a voter to or from the polls without
29 charge; **and**

30 **(G) postage-paid return envelopes required in**
31 **AS 15.20.030.**

1 * **Sec. 43.** AS 15.58.030(h) is amended to read:

2 (h) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and publish on the division's Internet
3 website the photograph and statement of a candidate for an office designated under
4 (a), (b), or (g) of this section. The lieutenant governor shall indicate that the
5 photograph and statement are provided and paid for by the candidate. A photograph
6 and a statement of a candidate that have been timely filed with the lieutenant governor
7 shall be published on the website at least **30** [15] days before an election at which the
8 candidate will appear on the ballot.

9 * **Sec. 44.** AS 15.80 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Sec. 15.80.006. Cybersecurity.** The director shall, by regulation, develop a
11 cybersecurity program to defend the voter registration records kept by the division
12 against cyber attacks and data breaches and enable the division to detect and recover
13 from cyber attacks. The program must include cybersecurity training for election
14 officials.

15 * **Sec. 45.** AS 19.25.105(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of
17 the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of the
18 interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state except the following:

19 (1) directional and other official signs and notices **that** [WHICH]
20 include [, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,] signs and notices pertaining to natural
21 wonders, scenic and historic attractions, which are required or authorized by law, and
22 which shall conform to federal standards for interstate and primary systems;

23 (2) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property
24 **on** [UPON] which they are located or advertising activities conducted on the property;

25 (3) signs determined by the state, subject to concurrence of the United
26 States Department of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm
27 structures or natural surfaces of historic or artistic significance, the preservation of
28 which would be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

29 (4) directional signs and notices pertaining to schools;

30 (5) advertising on bus benches or bus shelters, and adjacent trash
31 receptacles, if the state determines that the advertising conforms to local, state, and

1 federal standards for interstate and primary highways;

2 **(6) temporary political campaign signs not larger than 32 square**
 3 **feet in size displayed on private property if the owner or resident of the property**
 4 **is not being compensated for the display, the sign is not a risk to the public, and**
 5 **the sign is outside of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway right-of-way.**

6 * **Sec. 46.** AS 24.45.091 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 24.45.091. Publication of reports.** Copies of the statements and reports
 8 filed under this chapter shall be made available to the public at the commission's
 9 **offices** [CENTRAL OFFICE], the office of the lieutenant governor, **and** the legislative
 10 reference library of the Legislative Affairs Agency [, AND AT THE COMMISSION'S
 11 DISTRICT OFFICES PRESCRIBED IN AS 15.13.020(j)] as soon as practicable after
 12 each reporting period.

13 * **Sec. 47.** AS 29.20.380(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) The municipal clerk may act as an absentee voting official under
 15 AS 15.20.045(c) for the limited purpose of distributing absentee ballots to qualified
 16 voters or qualified voters' representatives under AS 15.20.072 in a municipality in
 17 which the division of elections will not be operating an **early** [ABSENTEE] voting
 18 station **under AS 15.20.045(b).**

19 * **Sec. 48.** AS 29.26.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 (d) Except as a municipality may require for elections held only in specific
 21 local election districts or service areas under (b) of this section, a person who has lived
 22 within the municipality for at least 30 days, but who has not registered to vote in state
 23 elections at a residence address within the municipality at least 30 days before a
 24 municipal election, may vote only an absentee, special needs, or questioned ballot in
 25 that election. The municipality may not reject the absentee, special needs, or
 26 questioned ballot of a qualified voter who registers within 30 days before or on the day
 27 of an election on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the
 28 election.

29 * **Sec. 49.** AS 39.50.020(b) is amended to read:

30 (b) A public official, [OR] former public official, **or candidate for municipal**
 31 **office** [OTHER THAN AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED MUNICIPAL OFFICER]

1 shall file the statement with the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Candidates for the
2 office of governor and lieutenant governor and, if the candidate is not subject to
3 AS 24.60, the legislature shall file the statement under AS 15.25.030. **The Alaska**
4 **Public Offices Commission shall provide copies of the statements filed by**
5 **municipal** [MUNICIPAL] officers, former municipal officers, and candidates for
6 elective municipal office **to** [SHALL FILE WITH] the **applicable** municipal clerk or
7 other municipal official designated to receive **the statements** [THEIR FILING FOR
8 OFFICE]. All statements required to be filed under this chapter are public records.

9 * **Sec. 50.** AS 29.26.050(a)(3) is repealed.

10 * **Sec. 51.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
11 read:

12 APPLICABILITY. AS 15.56.030(d), as amended by sec. 42 of this Act, applies to
13 offenses committed on or after the effective date of sec. 42 of this Act.

14 * **Sec. 52.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.