

**HOUSE BILL NO. 259**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 4/22/97

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the maintenance of voter lists and to the inactivation and  
2 cancellation of voter registration; and providing for an effective date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 \* Section 1. AS 15.07.130(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Periodically at times of the director's choosing, but no less frequently  
6 than in January [AT THE CLOSE] of each calendar year, the director [AREA  
7 ELECTION SUPERVISOR] shall examine the master register maintained [BY THE  
8 SUPERVISOR] under AS 15.07.120 and shall send, by nonforwardable mail to the  
9 voter's registration mailing address, a notice requesting address confirmation or  
10 correction to each voter

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

13 (2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately  
14 preceding the examination of the register; or

1                   **(3) who has not voted or appeared to vote in the two general**  
 2                   **elections immediately preceding the examination of the register.**

3 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.130(b) is amended to read:

4                   (b) **If** [WHEN] a registered voter has not [INDICATED IN WRITING A  
 5                   DESIRE TO REMAIN REGISTERED] within the preceding four calendar years  
 6                   **contacted the division** and has neither voted nor appeared to vote in a local, regional  
 7                   school board, primary, special, or general election during the last four calendar years,  
 8                   **and a notice sent to the voter under (a) of this section was returned as**  
 9                   **undeliverable,** the voter shall be advised by a notice sent by forwardable mail to the  
 10                   voter's last known address that registration will be inactivated unless the voter  
 11                   responds to the notice **no later than 45** [AT LEAST 30] days **after the date of the**  
 12                   **notice sent under this section** [BEFORE THE DATE OF THE NEXT PRIMARY  
 13                   ELECTION ON A FORM FURNISHED BY THE DIRECTOR]. The director shall  
 14                   maintain on the master register the name of a voter whose registration is inactivated.  
 15                   The director shall cancel a voter's inactive registration **in accordance with the**  
 16                   **procedures set out in 42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6 (sec. 8, National Voter Registration Act**  
 17                   **of 1993)** after the second general election that occurs after the registration becomes  
 18                   inactive if the voter does not **contact the division or** vote or appear to vote.

19 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.130(d) is amended to read:

20                   (d) The notice **sent under** [DESCRIBED IN] (b) of this section must include  
 21                   a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card on which the voter may state the  
 22                   voter's current address. The notice must indicate

23                   (1) that the voter should return the card not later than **45 days after the**  
 24                   **date of the notice** [30 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION] if the  
 25                   voter did not change residence;

26                   (2) that **failure to** [THE VOTER MAY VOTE ONLY A  
 27                   QUESTIONED OR ABSENTEE BALLOT IF THE VOTER DOES NOT] return the  
 28                   card **by the 45-day deadline could result in removal of the voter's name from the**  
 29                   **official registration list for a subsequent election** [AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE  
 30                   THE NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION];

31                   (3) that the voter's registration will be canceled if the voter does not

1        **contact the division during, or** vote or appear to vote in an election held during, the  
2        period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the last day of  
3        the fourth calendar year that occurs after the date of the notice; and

4                    (4) how the voter can continue to be eligible to vote if the voter has  
5        changed residence.

6        \* **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7                    (f) For the purpose of this section, a voter "contacts" the division if the voter  
8        notifies the division of a change of address, responds to a notice sent under this  
9        section, signs a petition for a ballot measure, requests a new voter registration card,  
10       or otherwise communicates with the division other than to vote or register to vote.

11       \* **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).