

**HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 307(RLS)**  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/15/98  
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HALFORD, Leman, Green, Miller, Torgerson, Pearce, Ward, Phillips, Taylor, Kelly

REPRESENTATIVE Barnes

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to conditions for filling vacancies in the office of United States  
2 senator; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 \* Section 1. AS 15.40.010 is amended to read:

5           **Sec. 15.40.010. Conditions and time of filling vacancy by appointment and**  
6           **special election.** When a vacancy occurs in the office of United States senator, the  
7           governor, within 30 days **after the date of the vacancy,** shall

8                   (1) appoint a qualified person **of the same political party as that**  
9                   **which nominated the predecessor in office** to fill the vacancy **temporarily until the**  
10                   **vacancy is filled permanently by election; and**

11                   (2) **by proclamation and subject to this chapter, call a special**  
12                   **primary election and a special election to fill the vacancy for** [. HOWEVER, IF]  
13                   the remainder of the term of the predecessor in office **if the predecessor's term would**  
14                   [**WILL**] expire **more than 30 calendar months after the date of** [OR IF THE

1 VACANCY WILL BE FILLED BY A SPECIAL ELECTION BEFORE THE SENATE  
 2 WILL NEXT MEET, CONVENE, OR RECONVENE, THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT  
 3 FILL] the vacancy.

4 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.40.050 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 15.40.050. Date of special primary election and special election. (a)**  
 6 **The special primary election to determine a candidate who represents a political**  
 7 **party in a special election shall be held on the date of the first primary election**  
 8 **that is held more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.**

9 (b) The special election to fill the vacancy shall be held on the date of the first  
 10 general election **that** [WHICH] is held [MORE THAN THREE FULL CALENDAR  
 11 MONTHS] after **the first primary election that is held more than 30 days after** the  
 12 vacancy occurs.

13 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **Sec. 15.40.075. Determination of candidates; date of nominations.** (a)  
 15 Subject to (b) - (d) of this section, candidates for the special election shall be  
 16 nominated as provided in AS 15.25.

17 (b) Notwithstanding AS 15.25.040, the declaration of a member of a political  
 18 party who seeks to become a candidate of the party in the special primary election  
 19 under AS 15.40.010 is filed by either the actual physical delivery (1) of the declaration  
 20 in person or by mail at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the third day following  
 21 the proclamation; or (2) by telegram or other reliable electronic means of a copy in  
 22 substance of the statements made in paragraphs (1) - (5) of the declaration as required  
 23 by AS 15.25.030(a) at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the third day following  
 24 the proclamation and also the actual physical delivery of the declaration containing  
 25 paragraphs (1) - (16) as required by AS 15.25.030(a) to the United States Postal  
 26 Service for delivery by the most expeditious means possible. If the declaration is not  
 27 received within seven calendar days, the candidate shall be notified of nonreceipt. The  
 28 candidate shall have the opportunity to refile the declaration with proof that a previous  
 29 declaration has been filed in a timely manner and in accordance with law.

30 (c) Notwithstanding AS 15.25.150, an individual who will not be representing  
 31 a political party shall be nominated by petition transmitted to the director before the

1 21st day after the vacancy occurs by

2 (1) the actual physical delivery of the petition in person;

3 (2) mail postmarked not later than midnight of that date; or

4 (3) telegram of a copy in substance of the statements made in the  
5 petition.

6 (d) The director shall place on the special election ballot the name of the  
7 individual receiving the greatest number of votes by a political party in the special  
8 primary election under AS 15.40.010. For purposes of placement of the names of  
9 nominees on the special election ballot under this section, all candidates who properly  
10 file nominating petitions without designating a political group name shall be treated  
11 as candidates of the same political group.

12 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 15.40.130 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 15.40.130. General provision for conduct of special election.** Unless  
14 specifically provided otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the general  
15 election shall govern the conduct of the special election of United States senators, **and**  
16 **all provisions regarding the conduct of the primary election shall govern the**  
17 **conduct of the special primary election of United States senators**, including, but not  
18 limited to, provisions concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties,  
19 powers, rights and obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of cities  
20 and organized boroughs; provision for notification of the election; provision for  
21 payment of election expenses; provisions regarding employees being allowed time from  
22 work to vote; provisions for the counting, reviewing, and certification of returns;  
23 provisions for the determination of the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and  
24 provision for absentee voting.

25 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

26 **Sec. 15.40.135. Definition.** In AS 15.40.010 - 15.40.135, "special primary  
27 election" means an election under AS 15.40.010 for the purpose of determining who  
28 will represent a political party in a special election to fill a vacancy of United States  
29 senator.

30 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 15.40.030, 15.40.040, 15.40.080, 15.40.090, 15.40.100, 15.40.110, and  
31 15.40.120 are repealed.

**1** \* **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).