

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB 94**

May 14, 2005

4:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Ralph Samuels, Chair
Representative Jim Elkins
Representative Max Gruenberg

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
Senator Gene Therriault
Senator Kim Elton

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 94

"An Act relating to qualifications of voters, requirements and procedures regarding independent candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, voter registration and voter registration records, voter registration through a power of attorney, voter registration using scanned documents, voter residence, precinct boundary and polling place designation and modification, recognized political parties, voters unaffiliated with a political party, early voting, absentee voting, application for absentee ballots through a power of attorney, or by scanned documents, ballot design, ballot counting, voting by mail, voting machines, vote tally systems, initiative, referendum, recall, and definitions in the Alaska Election Code; relating to incorporation elections; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CCS HB 94 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 94

SHORT TITLE: ELECTIONS/VOTERS/POLITICAL PARTIES

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

01/21/05 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/05 (H) STA, JUD, FIN

02/03/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/03/05 (H) Heard & Held
02/03/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/08/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/08/05 (H) Heard & Held
02/08/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/10/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/10/05 (H) Heard & Held
02/10/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/17/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/17/05 (H) Heard & Held
02/17/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/19/05 (H) STA AT 10:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/19/05 (H) Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
03/08/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
03/08/05 (H) Heard & Held
03/08/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
03/15/05 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
03/15/05 (H) Moved CSHB 94(STA) Out of Committee
03/15/05 (H) MINUTE(STA)
03/18/05 (H) STA RPT CS(STA) NT 3DP 2NR
03/18/05 (H) DP: GATTO, GRUENBERG, SEATON;
03/18/05 (H) NR: GARDNER, LYNN
03/21/05 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
03/21/05 (H) Heard & Held
03/21/05 (H) MINUTE(JUD)
04/01/05 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/01/05 (H) Scheduled But Not Heard
04/04/05 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/04/05 (H) -- Meeting Canceled --
04/06/05 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/06/05 (H) Heard & Held
04/06/05 (H) MINUTE(JUD)
04/07/05 (H) JUD AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/07/05 (H) Moved CSHB 94(JUD) Out of Committee
04/07/05 (H) MINUTE(JUD)
04/13/05 (H) JUD RPT CS(JUD) NT 1DP 4NR 1AM
04/13/05 (H) DP: KOTT;
04/13/05 (H) NR: ANDERSON, COGHILL, GARA, MCGUIRE;
04/13/05 (H) AM: GRUENBERG
04/19/05 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
04/19/05 (H) Moved CSHB 94(FIN) Out of Committee
04/19/05 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
04/21/05 (H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) NT 3DP 4NR 1AM
04/21/05 (H) DP: HAWKER, FOSTER, MEYER;
04/21/05 (H) NR: CROFT, MOSES, KELLY, CHENAULT;
04/21/05 (H) AM: STOLTZE

04/27/05 (H) BEFORE THE HOUSE
 04/28/05 (H) BEFORE THE HOUSE
 04/28/05 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
 04/28/05 (H) VERSION: CSHB 94(FIN) AM
 05/01/05 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 05/01/05 (S) STA, JUD, FIN
 05/05/05 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211
 05/05/05 (S) Moved SCS CSHB 94(STA) Out of Committee
 05/05/05 (S) MINUTE(STA)
 05/06/05 (S) STA RPT SCS 3DP 1NR 1AM
 SAME TITLE
 05/06/05 (S) DP: THERRIault, WAGONER, HUGGINS
 05/06/05 (S) NR: ELTON
 05/06/05 (S) AM: DAVIS
 05/07/05 (S) JUD REFERRAL WAIVED Y11 N8 E1
 05/08/05 (S) FIN AT 0:00 AM
 05/08/05 (S) Moved SCS CSHB 94(STA) Out of Committee
 05/08/05 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
 05/09/05 (S) FIN RPT SCS(STA) 2DP 3NR
 05/09/05 (S) DP: WILKEN, GREEN
 05/09/05 (S) NR: HOFFMAN, DYSON, STEDMAN
 05/09/05 (S) STA SCS ADOPTED Y11 N8 E1
 05/10/05 (S) VERSION: SCS CSHB 94(STA)
 05/10/05 (H) CONCUR MOTION WITHDRAWN
 05/11/05 (H) SPECIAL SESSION BILL - SEE H. JOURNAL
 P. 1962
 05/11/05 (S) SPECIAL SESSION BILL - SEE S. JOURNAL
 P. 1606
 05/13/05 (H) CONFERENCE COMMITTEE APPOINTED
 05/13/05 (H) SAMUELS (CHAIR), ELKINS, GRUENBERG
 05/14/05 (H) 094 AT 4:30 PM CAPITOL 124

WITNESS REGISTER

No witnesses to record

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR SAMUELS called the meeting to order at 4:33:39 PM. Present at the call to order were Representatives Samuels, Elkins, and Gruenberg, and Senators Gary Stevens, Therriault, and Elton.

HB 94-ELECTIONS/VOTERS/POLITICAL PARTIES

CHAIR SAMUELS announced that the only order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 94, "An Act relating to qualifications of voters,

requirements and procedures regarding independent candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, voter registration and voter registration records, voter registration through a power of attorney, voter registration using scanned documents, voter residence, precinct boundary and polling place designation and modification, recognized political parties, voters unaffiliated with a political party, early voting, absentee voting, application for absentee ballots through a power of attorney, or by scanned documents, ballot design, ballot counting, voting by mail, voting machines, vote tally systems, initiative, referendum, recall, and definitions in the Alaska Election Code; relating to incorporation elections; and providing for an effective date." [Before the committee was CSHB 94(FIN)am and SCS CSHB 94(STA).]

CHAIR SAMUELS directed attention to a Conference Committee Substitute (CS) for HB 94, Version 24-GH1048\U. He noted that the changes made in Version U deleted Sections 11, 12, and 13.

[4:34:10 PM](#)

SENATOR THERRIAULT pointed to changes made by the Senate. He said there were technical changes requested by [Laura Glaiser], the director of the Division of Elections. He stated that there had been a section of the bill that proposed a different criteria for qualifying as a party. He said, "We stuck with the current statutory language that was just put in place last year; it's a cascading mechanism that's based on 3 percent of the voter turnout." He said it used to be that a small party could hope to meet the qualifications every four years, based on the gubernatorial race. Other standards were put in last year, he said, which offered the smaller parties the opportunity to qualify once every two years, instead of once every four.

[4:35:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG mentioned that there was also language that conformed to SB 36 regarding "the broadest choice." He stated, "For example, in a Republican primary in a Republican ... district, that may be the closed primary, and the person might not be eligible to participate. So, we took that language out."

[4:35:53 PM](#)

SENATOR THERRIAULT explained, "There was a reference to a ballot that was the creation of a court decision a couple years ago,

but it doesn't, in fact, exist in the statutes as they read today. So, a sentence was taken out on that."

[4:36:10 PM](#)

CHAIR GARY STEVENS moved to report CCS HB 94, Version 24-GH1048\U, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CCS HB 94 was reported out of the Conference Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Conference Committee for HB 94 was adjourned at [4:36:29 PM](#).