

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 406(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/13/08

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FAIRCLOUGH, Lynn, Roses, Dahlstrom, Buch

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to contracts for the preparation of election ballots."**

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 15.15.030 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 15.15.030. Preparation of official ballot.** The director shall prepare all  
5 official ballots to facilitate fairness, simplicity, and clarity in the voting procedure, to  
6 reflect most accurately the intent of the voter, and to expedite the administration of  
7 elections. The following directives shall be followed when applicable:

8 (1) The director shall determine the size of the ballot, the type of print,  
9 necessary additional instruction notes to voters, and other similar matters of form not  
10 provided by law.

11 (2) The director shall number ballots in series to assure simplicity and  
12 secrecy and to prevent fraud.

13 (3) The director may contract for the preparation of the ballots on a  
14 regional basis if necessary and **shall** [MAY] contract for the preparation of ballots **by**  
15 [WITHOUT] obtaining **proposals as provided in AS 15.15.031** [COMPETITIVE

1 BIDS].

2 (4) The director may not include on the ballot as a part of a candidate's  
3 name, any honorary or assumed title or prefix but may include in the candidate's name  
4 any nickname or familiar form of a proper name of the candidate.

5 (5) The names of the candidates and their party designations shall be  
6 placed in separate sections on the state general election ballot under the office  
7 designation to which they were nominated. The party affiliation, if any, shall be  
8 designated after the name of the candidate. The lieutenant governor and the governor  
9 shall be included under the same section. Provision shall be made for voting for write-  
10 in and no-party candidates within each section. Paper ballots for the state general  
11 election shall be printed on white paper.

12 (6) The names of the candidates for each office shall be set out in the  
13 same order on ballots printed for use in each house district. The director shall  
14 randomly determine the order of the names of the candidates for state representative  
15 for each house district. The director shall rotate the order of placement of the names of  
16 candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, United States senator, United States  
17 representative, and state senator on the ballot for each house district.

18 (7) The general election ballot shall be designed with the names of  
19 candidates of each political party, and of any independent candidates qualified under  
20 AS 15.30.026, for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States  
21 placed in the same section on the ballot rather than the names of electors of President  
22 and Vice-President.

23 (8) The general or special election ballot shall be designed with the  
24 title and proposition for any initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment  
25 formulated as prescribed by law and placed on the ballot in the manner prescribed by  
26 the director. When placed on the ballot, a state ballot proposition or ballot question  
27 shall carry the number that was assigned to the petition for the proposition or question.  
28 Provision shall be made for marking the proposition "Yes" or "No."

29 (9) The general or special election ballot shall be designed with the  
30 question of whether a constitutional convention shall be called placed on the ballot in  
31 the following manner: "Shall there be a constitutional convention?" Provision shall be

1 made for marking the question "Yes" or "No."

2 (10) A nonpartisan ballot shall be designed for each judicial district in  
3 which a justice or judge is seeking retention in office. The ballot shall be divided into  
4 four parts and each part must bear a heading indicating the court to which the  
5 candidate is seeking approval. Within each part, the question of whether the justice or  
6 judge shall be approved or rejected shall be set out in substantially the following  
7 manner: (A) "Shall . . . . . be retained as justice of the supreme court for 10 years?";  
8 (B) "Shall . . . . . be retained as judge of the court of appeals for eight years?"; (C)  
9 "Shall . . . . . be retained as judge of the superior court for six years?"; or (D) "Shall  
10 . . . . . be retained as judge of the district court for four years?" Provision shall be  
11 made for marking each question "Yes" or "No."

12 (11) When the legislature by law authorizes a state debt for capital  
13 improvements, the director shall place the question of whether the specific  
14 authorization shall be ratified by placing the ballot title and question on the next  
15 general election ballot, or on the special election ballot if a special election is held for  
16 the purpose of ratifying the state debt for capital improvements before the time of the  
17 next general election. Unless specifically provided otherwise in the Act authorizing  
18 the debt, the ballot title shall, by the use of a few words in a succinct manner, indicate  
19 the general subject of the Act. The question shall, by the use of a few sentences in a  
20 succinct manner, give a true and impartial summary of the Act authorizing the state  
21 debt. The question of whether state debt shall be contracted shall be assigned a letter  
22 of the alphabet on the ballot. Provision shall be made for marking the question  
23 substantially as follows:

24 "Bonds. . . . . Yes" or "Bonds . . . . . No,"  
25 followed by an appropriate oval.

26 (12) [REPEALED

27 (13)] The director may provide for the optical scanning of ballots  
28 where the requisite equipment is available.

29 **(13)** [(14)] The director may provide for voting by use of electronically  
30 generated ballots by a voter who requests to use a machine that produces electronically  
31 generated ballots.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

2 **Sec. 15.15.031. Contracts for the preparation of election ballots.** (a) Except  
3 as provided in (b) of this section, the director shall award a contract for the preparation  
4 of election ballots to the most advantageous offeror whose proposal conforms in all  
5 material respects to the requirements and criteria set out in the request for proposals.

6 (b) The director shall award a contract based on solicited proposals to the most  
7 advantageous, responsive, and responsible offeror after an Alaska offeror preference  
8 of five percent and an Alaska product preference of seven percent.

9 (c) In this section,

10 (1) "Alaska offeror" means a person who

11 (A) holds a current Alaska business license;

12 (B) submits a proposal for ballot preparation under the name as  
13 appearing on the person's current Alaska business license;

14 (C) has maintained a place of business in the state staffed by  
15 the offeror or an employee of the offeror for a period of six months  
16 immediately preceding the date of the proposal;

17 (D) is

18 (i) incorporated or qualified to do business under the  
19 laws of the state;

20 (ii) a sole proprietorship and the proprietor is a resident  
21 of the state;

22 (iii) a limited liability company organized under  
23 AS 10.50 and all members are residents of the state; or

24 (iv) a partnership under former AS 32.05, AS 32.06, or  
25 AS 32.11 and all partners are residents of the state; and

26 (E) if a joint venture, is composed entirely of ventures that  
27 qualify under (A) - (D) of this subsection;

28 (2) "Alaska product" means a product

29 (A) that is produced or manufactured in Alaska, as defined in  
30 AS 36.30.338(2);

31 (B) for which the responsibility for the final outcome of the

1 production or manufacturing process is controlled by an Alaska producer or  
2 manufacturer; and

3 (C) for which no manufacturing step is performed outside  
4 Alaska or, if a manufacturing step is subcontracted outside Alaska, the  
5 manufacturing step is one the absence of which would not alter the  
6 distinctiveness of the character of the product.

7 \* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
8 read:

9 **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to contracts for the preparation of ballots for  
10 elections conducted on or after January 1, 2009.