

HOUSE BILL NO. 288

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG

Introduced: 1/19/10

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to bilingual voting; and relating to the definition of 'political party.'"**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 15.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 15.15.245. Voting assistance for persons with limited English**
5 **proficiency.** (a) The director shall

6 (1) provide bilingual ballots and voting materials or oral translation
7 help at polling places and absentee voting stations designated under AS 15.20.045(b)
8 in an election district in which at least 20 percent of the voting-age citizens speak a
9 single common language other than English and are persons with limited English
10 proficiency, according to data collected by the United States Bureau of the Census;
11 and

12 (2) ensure, to the greatest degree possible, the accurate translation of
13 ballots and voting materials and the accuracy and availability of oral translation help
14 provided to persons with limited English proficiency.

15 (b) In this section, "with limited English proficiency" means unable to speak

1 or understand English well enough to participate in the electoral process.

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.60.010(25) is amended to read:

3 (25) "political party" means an organized group of voters that
4 represents a political program and **has at least 2,500 registered voters in the state**

5 [(A) THAT NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR
6 GOVERNOR WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE
7 TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR GOVERNOR AT THE PRECEDING
8 GENERAL ELECTION OR HAS REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE
9 EQUAL IN NUMBER TO AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL
10 VOTES CAST FOR GOVERNOR AT THE PRECEDING GENERAL
11 ELECTION];

12 (B) IF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR WAS NOT ON THE
13 BALLOT AT THE PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION BUT THE OFFICE
14 OF UNITED STATES SENATOR WAS ON THAT BALLOT, THAT
15 NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR WHO
16 RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST
17 FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR AT THAT GENERAL ELECTION OR
18 HAS REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE EQUAL IN NUMBER TO
19 AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR
20 UNITED STATES SENATOR AT THAT GENERAL ELECTION; OR

21 (C) IF NEITHER THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR NOR THE
22 OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR WAS ON THE BALLOT AT
23 THE PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION, THAT NOMINATED A
24 CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE WHO
25 RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST
26 FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT THAT GENERAL
27 ELECTION OR HAS REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE EQUAL IN
28 NUMBER TO AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES
29 CAST FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT THAT GENERAL
30 ELECTION];