

**SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 288**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG**

**Introduced: 2/5/10**

**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 voting materials or oral translation help at polling  
7 places and absentee voting stations designated under AS 15.20.045(b) in an election  
8 district in which at least five percent of the voting-age citizens speak a single common  
9 language other than English and are persons with limited English proficiency, as  
10 determined by the director of the United States Bureau of the Census, based on the  
11 latest available American Community Survey census data or comparable census data;  
12 and

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

1 (b) In this section,

2 (1) "voting materials" means registration or voting notices, forms,  
3 instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral  
4 process, including ballots;

5 (2) "with limited English proficiency" means unable to speak or  
6 understand English well enough to participate in the electoral process.

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

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

10 [(A) THAT NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR  
11 GOVERNOR WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE  
12 TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR GOVERNOR AT THE PRECEDING  
13 GENERAL ELECTION OR HAS REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE  
14 EQUAL IN NUMBER TO AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL  
15 VOTES CAST FOR GOVERNOR AT THE PRECEDING GENERAL  
16 ELECTION;

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

26 (C) IF NEITHER THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR NOR THE  
27 OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR WAS ON THE BALLOT AT  
28 THE PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION, THAT NOMINATED A  
29 CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE WHO  
30 RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST  
31 FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT THAT GENERAL

1 ELECTION OR HAS REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE EQUAL IN  
2 NUMBER TO AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES  
3 CAST FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT THAT GENERAL  
4 ELECTION];