

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 74(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/23/11

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, Lynn

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to election pamphlets; relating to information that must be provided**
2 **for a bill under consideration by the legislature that authorizes the issuance of state**
3 **general obligation bonds, to information that must be provided before the issuance of**
4 **state general obligation bonds is submitted to the voters for ratification, and to the**
5 **publication of a report relating to state bonded debt; and providing for an effective**
6 **date."**

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

8 *** Section 1.** AS 15.58.010 is amended to read:

9 **Sec. 15.58.010. Election pamphlet.** Before each state **primary**, general,
10 [ELECTION, AND BEFORE EACH STATE PRIMARY] or special election [AT
11 WHICH A BALLOT PROPOSITION IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON THE
12 BALLOT], the lieutenant governor shall prepare, publish, and mail [AT LEAST] one
13 election pamphlet to each household identified from the official registration list. The

1 pamphlet shall be prepared on a regional basis as determined by the lieutenant
2 governor.

3 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.58.020(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Each general election pamphlet must contain

5 (1) photographs and campaign statements submitted by eligible
6 candidates for elective office in the region;

7 (2) information and recommendations filed under AS 15.58.050 on
8 judicial officers subject to a retention election in the region;

9 (3) a map of the house district or districts of the region;

10 (4) sample ballots for house districts of the region;

11 (5) an absentee ballot application;

12 (6) for each ballot proposition submitted to the voters by initiative or
13 referendum petition or by the legislature,

14 (A) the full text of the proposition specifying constitutional or
15 statutory provisions proposed to be affected;

16 (B) the ballot title and the summary of the proposition prepared
17 by the director or by the lieutenant governor;

18 (C) a statement of the costs to the state of implementing the law
19 proposed in an initiative, or of voter approval or rejection of the act that is the
20 subject of a referendum;

21 (D) a neutral summary of the proposition prepared by the
22 Legislative Affairs Agency;

23 (E) statements submitted that advocate voter approval or
24 rejection of the proposition not to exceed 500 words;

25 (7) for each bond question, a statement of the scope of each project as
26 it appears in the bond authorization **and the notice prepared under AS 37.15.015(a);**

27 (8) a maximum of two pages of material submitted by each political
28 party;

29 (9) additional information on voting procedures that the lieutenant
30 governor considers necessary;

31 (10) for the question whether a constitutional convention shall be

1 called,

2 (A) a full statement of the question placed on the ballot;

3 (B) statements not to exceed 500 words that advocate voter
4 approval or rejection of the question;

5 (11) under AS 37.13.170, the Alaska permanent fund annual income
6 statement and balance sheet for the two fiscal years preceding the publication of the
7 election pamphlet;

8 (12) under AS 15.10.090, notice of

9 (A) the establishment or abolition of a precinct;

10 (B) the designation, abolition, or modification of precinct
11 boundaries; and

12 (C) a change in the location of a polling place.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.58.020(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

14 (b) Each primary or special election pamphlet must contain the information
15 specified in (a)(1) of this section for each candidate scheduled to appear on the ballot
16 and the information specified in (a)(6) of this section for each ballot proposition, as
17 well as the information specified in (a)(3) - (5), (7), (9), and (12) of this section.

18 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.58.030(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) An [NO LATER THAN JULY 22 OF A YEAR IN WHICH A STATE
20 GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD, AN] individual who becomes a candidate
21 for the office of United States senator, United States representative, governor,
22 lieutenant governor, state senator, or state representative under AS 15.25.030 or
23 15.25.180 may file with the lieutenant governor a photograph and a statement
24 advocating the candidacy. **For a primary election, the photograph and statement**
25 **shall be filed with the lieutenant governor not later than the day following the**
26 **date of the filing deadline for a declaration of candidacy under AS 15.25.040. For**
27 **the general election, the photograph and statement shall be filed with the**
28 **lieutenant governor not later than the day following the date of the primary**
29 **election, except that an** [AN] individual who becomes a candidate for the office of
30 United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor,
31 state senator, or state representative by party petition filed under AS 15.25.110 may

file with the lieutenant governor a photograph and a statement advocating the candidacy within 10 days of becoming a candidate. **For a special election, the photograph and statement shall be filed by a date specified by the lieutenant governor. A candidate whose photograph and statement appeared in the primary election pamphlet may file a different photograph and statement to appear in the general election pamphlet.**

* **Sec. 5.** AS 15.58.060(a) is amended to read:

(a) Each [GENERAL ELECTION] candidate shall pay to the lieutenant governor at the time of filing material under this chapter the following:

(1) President or Vice-President of the United States, United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, supreme court justice, and court of appeals judge, \$300 each;

(2) superior court judge and district court judge, \$150 each;

(3) state senator and state representative, \$100 each.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 15.58.080(a) is amended to read:

(a) Not less than 22 days before **each primary or** [THE] general election, the lieutenant governor shall mail to **each household identified from the official registration list** [EVERY REGISTERED VOTER] one copy of the pamphlet prepared for the region in which the **household is located. The pamphlet for a special election shall be mailed as soon as practicable before the election** [VOTER RESIDES]. Additional pamphlets may be obtained from the director, the office of the lieutenant governor, and the area election offices.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 15.58.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) All information contained in an election pamphlet for a primary, general, or special election shall be published on the division's Internet website not later than the date the election pamphlet is mailed to registered voters under (a) of this section.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 24.08.037 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) In addition to the fiscal note requirements of AS 24.08.035 and the requirements of (a) of this section, before a bill authorizing the issuance of state general obligation bonds is referred to the rules committee, there shall be attached to the bill a statement with the following information:

(1) the current general obligation and other bonded indebtedness of the state and the effect of the proposed bonding on that indebtedness;

(2) the average cost of the annual debt service on the current general obligation bonded indebtedness and the effect of the proposed bonding on the average cost of the annual debt service;

(3) the amount of state general obligation debt principal that could be issued and paid for from the Alaska debt retirement fund (AS 37.15.011);

(4) the estimated debt service requirements for the bond issue proposed under the bill;

(5) whether the bond issue proposed under the bill will be repaid with amounts from the Alaska debt retirement fund (AS 37.15.011).

* **Sec. 9.** AS 37.07.045 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) The Department of Revenue shall publish, and make available to the public, the report prepared under (a) of this section on the department's Internet website.

* **Sec. 10.** AS 37.13.170 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.13.170. Reports and publications. By September 30 of each year, the board shall publish a report of the fund for distribution to the governor and the public. The board shall notify the legislature that the report is available. The report shall be written in easily understandable language. The report must include financial statements audited by independent outside auditors, a statement of the amount of money received by the fund from each investment during the period covered, a statement of investments of the fund including an appraisal at market value, a description of fund investment activity during the period covered by the report, a comparison of the fund performance with the intended goals contained in AS 37.13.020, an examination of the effect of the investment criteria of this chapter on the fund portfolio with recommendations of any needed changes, and any other information the board believes would be of interest to the governor, the legislature, and the public. The annual income statement and balance sheet of the fund shall be published in at least one newspaper in each judicial district. The income statement and balance sheet for the two fiscal years preceding the publication of the general election

1 pamphlet under AS 15.58 shall be included in that pamphlet.

2 * **Sec. 11.** AS 37.15.015(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) **Before an election in which a general obligation bond issue is offered**
 4 **for ratification, the state bond committee shall prepare a notice for inclusion in**
 5 **the election pamphlet.** Before a general or special election in which a bond issue is
 6 offered for ratification, the state bond committee shall publish a notice [OF
 7 EXISTING STATE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS] at least once a week for three
 8 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in each of the four judicial
 9 districts of the state. The first notice shall be published at least 20 days before the date
 10 of the election. **The notice shall also be included on the state Internet website as**
 11 **soon as it is prepared by the state bond committee.** A notice **prepared under this**
 12 **subsection** must contain

13 (1) the current **general obligation** [TOTAL] bonded indebtedness of
 14 the state **and the effect of the proposed bonding on that indebtedness;**

15 (2) the **average** cost of the **annual** debt service on the current **general**
 16 **obligation bonded** indebtedness **and the effect of the proposed bonding on the**
 17 **average cost of the annual debt service;**

18 (3) the [PROJECTED] amount of state general obligation debt
 19 principal that could be issued and paid for from the Alaska debt retirement fund
 20 **(AS 37.15.011);**

21 (4) the estimated debt service requirements for the bond issue offered
 22 for ratification; [AND]

23 (5) whether the bond issue offered for ratification will be repaid with
 24 amounts from the Alaska debt retirement fund **(AS 37.15.011);**

25 **(6) a brief description of each capital project, its location, and, in**
 26 **dollars, that portion of the total bond issue offered for ratification to be allocated**
 27 **to the project; and**

28 **(7) a brief description of the report relating to the state's bonded**
 29 **debt prepared by the Department of Revenue under AS 37.07.045 and the**
 30 **Internet address where the full report is available to the public under**

- 1 **AS 37.07.045(b).**
- 2 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.15.040(b) is repealed.
- 3 * **Sec. 13.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2012.