

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 64(FIN) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/12/25

Offered: 5/9/25

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voting; relating to voter
2 registration; relating to election administration; relating to the Alaska Public Offices
3 Commission; relating to campaign contributions; relating to the crimes of unlawful
4 interference with voting in the first degree, unlawful interference with an election, and
5 election official misconduct; relating to synthetic media in electioneering
6 communications; relating to campaign signs; relating to voter registration on permanent
7 fund dividend applications; relating to the Redistricting Board; relating to the duties of
8 the commissioner of revenue; and providing for an effective date."

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

10 * **Section 1.** AS 15.05.020 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 15.05.020. Rules for determining residence of voter.** For the purpose of
12 determining residence for voting, the place of residence is governed by the following

1 rules:

2 (1) A person may not be considered to have gained a residence solely
3 by reason of presence nor may a person lose it solely by reason of absence while in the
4 civil or military service of this state or of the United States or of absence because of
5 marriage to a person engaged in the civil or military service of this state or the United
6 States, while a student at an institution of learning, while in an institution or asylum at
7 public expense, while confined in public prison, while engaged in the navigation of
8 waters of this state or the United States or of the high seas, while residing on [UPON]
9 an Indian or military reservation, or while residing in the Alaska Pioneers' Home or
10 the Alaska Veterans' Home.

11 (2) The residence of a person is that place in which the person's
12 **physical** habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever absent, the person has **an**
13 **articulable and reasonable plan** [THE INTENTION] to return. If a person resides in
14 one place, but does business in another, the former is the person's place of residence.
15 Temporary work sites do not constitute a dwelling place.

16 (3) [A CHANGE OF RESIDENCE IS MADE ONLY BY THE ACT
17 OF REMOVAL JOINED WITH THE INTENT TO REMAIN IN ANOTHER
18 PLACE.] There can only be one residence.

19 (4) A person does not lose residence if the person leaves home and
20 goes to another country, state, or place in this state for temporary purposes only and
21 with the intent of returning **to the person's physical habitation**.

22 (5) A person does not gain residence in any place to which the person
23 comes without the present intention to establish a **physical habitation**
24 [PERMANENT DWELLING] at that place **indefinitely**.

25 (6) A person loses residence in this state if the person **establishes**
26 **residence in another state or** votes in another state's election, either in person or by
27 absentee ballot, and will not be eligible to vote in this state until again qualifying
28 under AS 15.05.010.

29 (7) The term of residence is computed by including the day on which
30 the person's residence begins and excluding the day of election.

31 (8) The address of a voter as it appears on the official voter registration

1 record is presumptive evidence of the person's voting residence. This presumption is
 2 negated [ONLY] if the voter notifies the director in writing of a change of voting
 3 residence. **When a voter's qualification is questioned under AS 15.15.210 or**
 4 **challenged in accordance with the procedure adopted in regulation under**
 5 **AS 15.20.215, the presumption may be rebutted by providing evidence to the**
 6 **division that the voter has established residence in another country, state, or**
 7 **place in this state or evidence that the voter is not a resident under (2) - (7) of this**
 8 **section.**

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.060(c) is amended to read:

10 (c) Each applicant who requests registration in person before a registration
 11 official shall exhibit one form of identification to the official, including a driver's
 12 license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth
 13 certificate, passport, or **identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe**
 14 **[HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE]**. A registration official who knows the identity
 15 of the applicant may waive the identification requirement.

16 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060(e) is amended to read:

17 (e) For an applicant requesting initial registration by mail, by facsimile or
 18 other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, or by
 19 completing a permanent fund dividend application, the director shall verify the
 20 information provided in compliance with (a)(2) and (3) of this section through state
 21 agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e). If the applicant cannot comply with the
 22 requirement of (a)(2) of this section because the applicant has not been issued any of
 23 the listed numbers, the applicant may instead submit a copy of one of the following
 24 forms of identification: a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid
 25 photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or **identification card issued by a**
 26 **federally recognized tribe** **[HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE]**.

27 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.070 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

28 (n) The division may use information provided by the Department of Revenue
 29 under AS 43.23.015 and 43.23.101 only to register a voter and conduct voter roll
 30 maintenance. The division may not disclose personally identifiable information
 31 obtained from the Department of Revenue.

1 (o) The division, in cooperation with the Department of Revenue, shall submit
 2 an annual report to the governor and to the senate secretary and chief clerk of the
 3 house of representatives on or before the first day of each regular session of the
 4 legislature and notify the legislature that the report is available. The report shall detail

5 (1) the number of permanent fund dividend applicant records shared
 6 with the division;

7 (2) the effect that shared permanent fund dividend applications had on
 8 voter roll maintenance under (n) of this section and on election integrity; and

9 (3) security measures taken to protect voter information.

10 (p) In this section, "voter roll maintenance" includes confirming the residency
 11 of a registered voter, identifying duplicate registrations, detecting voters who have
 12 moved, and detecting voters who are ineligible to vote under AS 15.05.

13 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.07.130(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Periodically, at times of the director's choosing, but **not** [NO] less
 15 frequently than in January of each calendar year, the director shall examine the master
 16 register maintained under AS 15.07.120 and shall send, by **forwardable**
 17 [NONFORWARDABLE] mail to the voter's registration mailing address, **and to the**
 18 **voter's electronic mail address, if available**, a notice requesting address
 19 confirmation or correction. **The notice must explain that the voter's registration**
 20 **will be inactivated unless the voter responds to the notice within 45 days after the**
 21 **date the notice is sent. The director shall send the notice** to each voter

22 (1) whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in
 23 the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register;

24 (2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately
 25 preceding the examination of the register **and** [; OR (3)] who has not voted or
 26 appeared to vote in the **28 months** [TWO GENERAL ELECTIONS] immediately
 27 preceding the examination of the register;

28 **(3) who the division has learned, after registering to vote in this**
 29 **state and during the 28 months immediately preceding the examination of the**
 30 **register, has**

31 **(A) registered to vote in another state;**

1 (B) received a driver's license from another state;

2 (C) registered a vehicle in another state;

3 (D) received public assistance from another state;

4 (E) served on a jury in another state;

5 (F) obtained a resident hunting or fishing license in another
6 state;

7 (G) enrolled in and paid the state resident tuition rate for a
8 public university in another state;

9 (H) received a homestead or residential property tax
10 exemption in another state; or

11 (I) received a benefit available only to residents of another
12 state; or

13 (4) who, for the full duration of the two years immediately
14 preceding the examination of the register, has maintained a physical mailing
15 address located outside the state, unless the division reasonably determines that
16 the person is away from the state for a reason permissible under AS 15.05.020 or
17 another state or federal law related to voting in elections; a notice sent under this
18 paragraph must include a requirement that the voter respond by selecting from a
19 list and certifying the truth of the voter's answer under penalty of perjury one of
20 the following circumstances:

21 (A) the voter is absent from the state but has an articulable
22 and reasonable plan to return to the place of physical habitation on the
23 voter's registration;

24 (B) the voter is absent from the state solely because of a
25 reason listed in AS 15.05.020(1);

26 (C) the voter is no longer a resident of the state and
27 requests to have the voter's registration canceled; or

28 (D) the voter has returned to the state.

29 * Sec. 6. AS 15.07.130(b) is amended to read:

30 (b) If a registered voter **does** [HAS] not **respond to a notice sent under (a) of**
31 **this section within 45 days after the date the notice is sent, the director shall**

1 **inactivate the voter's registration** [, WITHIN THE PRECEDING FOUR
 2 CALENDAR YEARS, CONTACTED THE DIVISION AND HAS NEITHER
 3 VOTED NOR APPEARED TO VOTE IN A LOCAL, REGIONAL SCHOOL
 4 BOARD, PRIMARY, SPECIAL, OR GENERAL ELECTION DURING THE LAST
 5 FOUR CALENDAR YEARS AND A NOTICE SENT TO THE VOTER UNDER (a)
 6 OF THIS SECTION WAS RETURNED AS UNDELIVERABLE, THE VOTER
 7 SHALL BE ADVISED BY A NOTICE SENT BY FORWARDABLE MAIL TO THE
 8 VOTER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS THAT REGISTRATION WILL BE
 9 INACTIVATED UNLESS THE VOTER RESPONDS TO THE NOTICE NO
 10 LATER THAN 45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE NOTICE SENT UNDER
 11 THIS SECTION]. The director shall maintain on the master register the name of a
 12 voter whose registration is inactivated. The director shall cancel a voter's inactive
 13 registration in accordance with the procedures set out in **52 U.S.C. 20507** [42 U.S.C.
 14 1973gg-6 (SEC. 8, NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993)] after the
 15 second general election that occurs after the registration becomes inactive if the voter
 16 does not contact the division or vote or appear to vote.

17 * **Sec. 7.** AS 15.07.130(d) is amended to read:

18 (d) The notice sent under **(a)** [(b)] of this section must include a postage
 19 prepaid and pre-addressed return card on which the voter may state the voter's current
 20 address. The notice must indicate

21 (1) that the voter should return the card not later than 45 days after the
 22 date of the notice if the voter did not change residence;

23 (2) that failure to return the card by the 45-day deadline could result in
 24 removal of the voter's name from the official registration list for a subsequent election;

25 (3) that the voter's registration will be cancelled if the voter does not
 26 contact the division during, or vote or appear to vote in an election held during, the
 27 period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the last day of
 28 the fourth calendar year that occurs after the date of notice; and

29 (4) how the voter can continue to be eligible to vote if the voter has
 30 changed residence.

31 * **Sec. 8.** AS 15.07.130(f) is amended to read:

1 (f) For the purpose of this section, a voter "contacts" the division if the voter
 2 notifies the division of a change of address, responds to a notice sent under this
 3 section, signs a petition for a ballot measure, requests a new voter registration card, or
 4 otherwise communicates with the division other than to vote or register to vote. **An**
 5 **individual does not "contact" the division by registering to vote under**
 6 **AS 15.07.070(i) - (m).**

7 * **Sec. 9.** AS 15.07.130 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

8 (g) The division shall adopt regulations to review voter registration records
 9 and update the master register. The regulations must include reviews for deceased
 10 voters, persons convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, persons not qualified
 11 to vote under AS 15.05, persons registered to vote in another state, whether the
 12 number of registered voters on the master register exceeds the number of eligible
 13 voters in the state, and voter registration information data breaches. In conducting
 14 these reviews, the division shall gather and examine available data from other states
 15 and information from the United States Postal Service forwarding databases, motor
 16 vehicle records, Department of Corrections records, property and sales tax records,
 17 United States Social Security Administration databases, jury duty records, National
 18 Change of Address records, and similar records. The division shall also review
 19 evidence that a person has undertaken the following activities in another state:

- 20 (1) registered to vote;
- 21 (2) obtained a driver's license;
- 22 (3) registered a vehicle;
- 23 (4) received public assistance; or
- 24 (5) obtained a resident hunting or fishing license.

25 (h) The division shall, in consultation with an external, nationally recognized
 26 subject-matter expert selected by the division, annually audit the master register. The
 27 division shall consider the subject-matter expert's recommendations. By February 1 of
 28 each year, the division shall publish a report describing the most recent audit and
 29 accounting for the criteria reviewed under (g) of this section. The report must include
 30 the expert's recommendations, identify protocols used under (g) of this section,
 31 provide election information including the number of voters on the master register and

1 the total population eligible to vote, and highlight voting data problems, irregularities,
 2 errors, and vulnerabilities identified in the audit. The division shall submit the report
 3 to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the
 4 legislature that the report is available on or before the date the report is published.

5 (i) If the director is required under both (a)(4) of this section and (a)(1), (2), or
 6 (3) of this section to send a notice to a voter, the director shall send the notice to the
 7 voter under (a)(1), (2), or (3) of this section and may not send a notice to the voter
 8 under (a)(4) of this section.

9 (j) A voter making a statement under (a)(4)(D) of this section shall provide the
 10 voter's current residence address in the sworn statement required under (a)(4) of this
 11 section.

12 (k) In addition to a notice or response required under this section, at any time
 13 the division may contact a voter to obtain or a voter may contact the division to
 14 provide information to determine the voter's residence.

15 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 **Sec. 15.07.133. Process to cancel registration.** The director shall develop a
 17 process to allow a voter to cancel the voter's registration electronically or in person
 18 before an election official. The process must include a requirement that the voter
 19 verify the voter's identity before the registration may be cancelled. The director shall
 20 prominently display instructions for a voter to cancel the voter's registration at each
 21 polling place.

22 * **Sec. 11.** AS 15.07.195 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (e) The director shall publish on the division's Internet website notice of the
 24 nature and severity of a data breach of information made confidential by this section
 25 and report the details of the breach to the president of the senate and the speaker of the
 26 house of representatives

27 (1) before the day of an election, if the data breach happens or is
 28 discovered within 14 days before an election; or

29 (2) before certifying the results of an election, if the data breach
 30 happens or is discovered on or after the day of the election but before certification of
 31 the election.

1 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.10.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (c) The director shall employ a rural community liaison. The rural community
3 liaison shall collaborate with tribes and municipalities to facilitate access to early and
4 absentee voting in rural areas of the state and ensure that precincts in rural areas of the
5 state are fully staffed.

6 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.10.170(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) The precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee
8 exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists,
9 or the state party chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee
10 exists, may appoint one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers in each precinct and
11 counting center for any election. A [EACH] candidate may appoint one or more
12 watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or
13 the state for any election. An [ANY] organization or organized group that sponsors or
14 opposes **a ballot proposition** [AN INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM,] or **question**
15 [RECALL] may have one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers at the polls and counting
16 centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. **A candidate, or an**
17 **organization or organized group with authorization from the director, may**
18 **appoint at least one watcher for each location where ballots or envelopes are**
19 **reviewed or counted in a precinct or counting center.** A state party chairperson, a
20 precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate may not have more
21 than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. A watcher must
22 be a United States citizen. The watcher may be present at a position inside the place of
23 voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken
24 from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results
25 certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board
26 or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof
27 showing appointment by the precinct party committee, the party district committee,
28 the organization or organized group, or the candidate the watcher represents **and that**
29 **is signed by the respective chairperson or chairperson's designee of the precinct**
30 **party committee or party district committee, the state party chairperson, the**
31 **organization or organized group, or the candidate or candidate's designee.**

1 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.13.020(j) is amended to read:

2 (j) The commission shall establish **offices** [AN OFFICE, WHICH MAY BE
3 CALLED A REGIONAL OFFICE, IN EACH SENATE DISTRICT IN THE STATE
4 TO KEEP ON FILE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION COPIES OF ALL REPORTS
5 FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE
6 AND BY CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE IN THAT DISTRICT;
7 HOWEVER, WHERE ONE MUNICIPALITY CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE
8 HOUSE DISTRICT, ONLY ONE COMMISSION OFFICE SHALL BE
9 ESTABLISHED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY. THE REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL
10 MAKE ALL FORMS AND PERTINENT MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO
11 CANDIDATES. ALL REPORTS SHALL BE FILED BY CANDIDATES, GROUPS,
12 AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL
13 DISTRICT OFFICE. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT COPIES OF
14 ALL REPORTS BY STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN EACH
15 SENATE DISTRICT ARE FORWARDED PROMPTLY TO THAT DISTRICT OR
16 REGIONAL OFFICE].

17 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.13.400(19) is amended to read:

18 (19) "true source" means,

19 **(A) for a contribution made for the purpose of influencing a**
20 **ballot proposition or question, the person or legal entity that makes the**
21 **contribution or independent expenditure to support or oppose the**
22 **proposition or question; or**

23 **(B) for a contribution made for the purpose of influencing**
24 **the nomination or election of a candidate,**

25 **(i)** the person or legal entity whose contribution is
26 funded from wages, investment income, inheritance, or revenue
27 generated from selling goods or services;

28 **(ii)** a person or legal entity who **derives** [DERIVED]
29 funds via contributions, donations, dues, or gifts is not the true source
30 [.] but **is** [RATHER] an intermediary for the true source **except that,**
31 **for a contribution from** [; NOTWITHSTANDING THE

1 FOREGOING, TO THE EXTENT] a membership organization **that**
 2 receives dues or contributions of less than \$2,000 per person per year,
 3 the organization itself **is** [SHALL BE CONSIDERED] the true source.

4 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.15.060(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Immediately following the appointment of the election board, the election
 6 supervisor in conjunction with the election board chair shall secure polling places for
 7 holding the election, suitable ballot boxes that will **ensure** [ASSURE] security, and an
 8 adequate number of voting booths or screens, national flags, pens, and pencils. At
 9 every polling place, at least one voting booth shall be furnished and not less than one
 10 voting booth or screen shall be furnished for each 100 votes or fractional part of 100
 11 votes cast in the previous election. [AT EVERY POLLING PLACE, AT LEAST
 12 ONE-HALF OF THE VOTING BOOTHS USED SHALL BE NOT LESS THAN SIX
 13 FEET IN HEIGHT, ENCLOSED ON THREE SIDES, AND PROVIDED WITH A
 14 CURTAIN EXTENDING FROM THE TOP OF THE VOTING BOOTH TO
 15 WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 30 INCHES OF THE FLOOR. THE CURTAIN OF
 16 THE VOTING BOOTH MUST CONCEAL THE VOTER WHILE VOTING.] The
 17 election supervisor and the election board chair may, in an emergency, secure an
 18 alternate location for a polling place.

19 * **Sec. 17.** AS 15.15.060(b) is amended to read:

20 (b) To **ensure** [ASSURE] administrative economy and to protect the secrecy
 21 of the ballot, the director may adopt regulations prescribing
 22 (1) the type of polling place for holding the election;
 23 (2) the requirements regarding ballot boxes, voting screens, national
 24 flags, and other supplies; and
 25 (3) [SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF (a) OF THIS
 26 SECTION,] the requirements regarding voting booths.

27 * **Sec. 18.** AS 15.15.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (f) To the extent practicable, the division shall provide language assistance
 29 required under 52 U.S.C. 10503, as amended, at each polling place. An election
 30 supervisor shall post at each polling place information regarding the availability of
 31 language assistance in English and all other languages for which language assistance

1 is required to be provided in the jurisdiction under federal law.

2 * **Sec. 19.** AS 15.15.225(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) Before being allowed to vote, each voter shall exhibit to an election official
4 one form of identification, including

5 (1) an official voter registration card, driver's license, state
6 identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or
7 **identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe** [HUNTING OR
8 FISHING LICENSE]; or

9 (2) an original or a copy of a [CURRENT] utility bill, bank statement,
10 paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item exhibited under
11 this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter **and must be**
12 **dated within the previous 60 days.**

13 * **Sec. 20.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 15.15.370. Results** [COMPLETION] of ballot count [;
15 CERTIFICATE]. When the count of ballots is completed, and in no event later than
16 the day after the election, the election board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the
17 results. The certificate includes the number of votes cast for each candidate, including,
18 for a candidate in a general election, the number of votes at each **ranking** [ROUND
19 OF THE RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION PROCESS] under AS 15.15.350, the
20 number of votes for and against each proposition, yes or no on each question, and any
21 additional information prescribed by the director. **However, a precinct that counts**
22 **results exclusively by hand may report the number of votes cast for each highest-**
23 **ranked candidate and need not report the number of second-place or lower**
24 **ranked votes cast for a candidate.** The election board shall, immediately upon
25 completion of the certificate or as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits,
26 send in one sealed package to the director one copy of the certificate and the register.
27 In addition, all ballots properly cast shall be mailed to the director in a separate, sealed
28 package. Both packages, in addition to an address on the outside, shall clearly indicate
29 the precinct from which they come. Each board shall, immediately upon completion of
30 the certification and as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send the
31 duplicate certificate to the respective election supervisor. The director may authorize

1 election boards in precincts in those areas of the state where distance and weather
 2 make mail communication unreliable to forward their election results by telephone or
 3 radio. The director may authorize the unofficial totaling of votes on a regional basis by
 4 election supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on duplicate certificates. To ensure
 5 adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the ballots,
 6 registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved,
 7 transferred, and destroyed.

8 * **Sec. 21.** AS 15.15.370 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

9 (b) Each day that the director releases unofficial totals of election results for a
 10 general election, the director shall also

11 (1) release an updated ranked-choice tabulation;

12 (2) identify the precincts that have been counted;

13 (3) identify the days on which absentee ballots have been logged and
 14 counted, including a summary of the count codes used on ballots in each district each
 15 day;

16 (4) identify the districts in which early votes were cast and the days on
 17 which votes were cast in each district; and

18 (5) identify the precincts and count codes of questioned ballots that
 19 have been counted.

20 (c) Each day that an absentee ballot is reviewed under AS 15.20.201 or a
 21 questioned ballot is reviewed under AS 15.20.207, the director shall display on the
 22 division's Internet website an updated unofficial total detailing the number of absentee
 23 ballots and questioned ballots counted for each count code.

24 (d) In this section, "count code" means a code assigned to a ballot by the
 25 division that designates the races in which the ballot is to be counted during a district
 26 absentee ballot counting review conducted under AS 15.20.203 or a district questioned
 27 ballot review conducted under AS 15.20.207.

28 * **Sec. 22.** AS 15.15.380 is amended to read:

29 **Sec. 15.15.380. Payment of election board members.** The director shall pay
 30 each election board member for time spent at election duties, including the receiving
 31 of instructions. Election board chairpersons and the chairperson and members of the

1 absentee ballot, questioned ballot, and state ballot counting review boards shall be
 2 paid for time spent at their election duties. The director shall set the compensation to
 3 be paid under this section [BY REGULATION].

4 * **Sec. 23.** AS 15.15.420 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 15.15.420. Duty to review the ballot counting.** The director shall review
 6 the counting of the ballots [WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF AND] in the presence of
 7 the appointed representatives from the political parties. **A candidate for an office that**
 8 **is on the ballots being counted and appointed representatives from the group**
 9 **supporting and from the group opposing a ballot proposition or question may be**
 10 **present and observe the counting of the ballots.**

11 * **Sec. 24.** AS 15.15.430(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) The review of ballot counting by the director **must** [SHALL] include
 13 [ONLY (1)] a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast. **The review**
 14 **must include** [; (2)] a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law.
 15 **The review must include, for each house district except a house district where all**
 16 **rates on the ballot are uncontested** [; AND (3) UNLESS THE BALLOT FOR THE
 17 HOUSE DISTRICT CONTAINS NOTHING BUT UNCONTESTED OFFICES], a
 18 hand count of ballots from one randomly selected precinct in **the** [EACH] house
 19 district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district. **The**
 20 **director shall adopt regulations prescribing additional review procedures**
 21 **employing statistical methods to limit the risk of certifying an election result that**
 22 **would be inconsistent with the result that would be obtained by conducting a**
 23 **recount.**

24 * **Sec. 25.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material.** The
 26 director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director
 27 shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot
 28 [.] and shall provide **a postage-paid return** [AN] envelope with the prescribed voter's
 29 certificate on it, in which the secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The
 30 director shall prescribe the form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and
 31 other material used in absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a

1 declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a
 2 blank for the voter's signature, **and a space for recording the date that the voter**
 3 **executed the certificate. An envelope may not identify a voter's party affiliation** [,
 4 A CERTIFICATION THAT THE AFFIANT PROPERLY EXECUTED THE
 5 MARKING OF THE BALLOT AND GAVE THE VOTER'S IDENTITY, BLANKS
 6 FOR THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS, AND A PLACE FOR
 7 RECORDING THE DATE THE ENVELOPE WAS SEALED AND WITNESSED].
 8 The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false statements
 9 made by the voter [OR BY THE ATTESTING OFFICIAL OR WITNESS] on the
 10 certificate are punishable by law.

11 * **Sec. 26.** AS 15.20.072(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) **A representative requesting a special needs ballot shall provide**
 13 **current and valid photo identification card or an identification card issued by a**
 14 **federally recognized tribe and sign a register provided by an election official. The**
 15 **register must require that the representative provide the representative's printed**
 16 **name, the name of the authority that issued the provided identification card, the**
 17 **type of provided identification card, the number associated with the provided**
 18 **identification card, the representative's phone number if available, the**
 19 **representative's electronic mail address if available, the name of the voter who**
 20 **requested the special needs ballot, and the dates on which the special needs**
 21 **ballot is provided to the representative and returned to the division. The election**
 22 **official shall verify that the representative's name, and, if applicable, likeness,**
 23 **match the provided identification card by signing or initialing the register. After**
 24 **the election official signs or initials the register, the election official shall explain**
 25 **to the representative the duties of a representative and a voter under (d) of this**
 26 **section and give the representative an envelope that includes a printed record of**
 27 **information required to be filled out by the representative. An election official**
 28 **may not issue the special needs ballot until the representative has provided the**
 29 **information required on the record. The record** [IF THE REQUEST FOR A
 30 SPECIAL NEEDS BALLOT IS MADE THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE, THE
 31 REPRESENTATIVE SHALL SIGN A REGISTER PROVIDED BY AN ELECTION

1 OFFICIAL. THE REGISTER] must include the following information:

- 2 (1) the representative's name;
- 3 (2) the representative's residence and mailing address;
- 4 (3) the representative's social security number, voter identification
5 number, or date of birth;
- 6 (4) the name of the voter on whose behalf the representative is
7 requesting a ballot and voting materials;
- 8 (5) an oath that the representative
- 9 (A) is receiving a ballot and voting materials on behalf of the
10 voter;
- 11 (B) will not vote the ballot for the voter;
- 12 (C) will not coerce the voter;
- 13 (D) will not divulge the vote cast by the voter; and
- 14 (E) has been notified that unlawful interference with voting is
15 punishable under AS 15.56.030;
- 16 (6) the representative's signature.

17 * **Sec. 27.** AS 15.20.072(d) is amended to read:

18 (d) The representative shall deliver the special needs ballot, **envelope, secrecy**
19 **sleeve,** and other voting materials **provided by the division** to the voter as soon as
20 practicable. The voter shall mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the secrecy
21 sleeve, and place the secrecy sleeve in the envelope [PROVIDED]. The voter shall
22 provide the information on the envelope that would be required for absentee voting if
23 the voter voted in person. The voter shall sign the voter's certificate in the presence of
24 the representative. The representative shall sign as attesting official and date the
25 voter's signature.

26 * **Sec. 28.** AS 15.20.072 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

27 (h) If a qualified voter satisfies the requirements of (d) of this section, the
28 division may not reject the voter's special needs ballot based on an error by an election
29 official or a representative. If the circumstances show evidence of unlawful
30 interference or misconduct, a special needs ballot may be held for further review.

31 (i) The director shall train each absentee voting official, election supervisor,

1 and member of a precinct election board on the requirements of this section.

2 * **Sec. 29.** AS 15.20.081(d) is amended to read:

3 (d) Upon receipt of an absentee ballot by mail, the voter [, IN THE
4 PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE
5 ARMED FORCES INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, DISTRICT JUDGE
6 OR MAGISTRATE, UNITED STATES POSTAL OFFICIAL, REGISTRATION
7 OFFICIAL, OR OTHER PERSON QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER OATHS,] may
8 proceed to mark the ballot in secret, to place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve, to place
9 the secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided, and to sign the voter's certificate on the
10 envelope. **The** [IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICIAL LISTED IN THIS
11 SUBSECTION WHO SHALL SIGN AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AND SHALL
12 DATE THE SIGNATURE. IF NONE OF THE OFFICIALS LISTED IN THIS
13 SUBSECTION IS REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE, AN ABSENTEE VOTER
14 SHALL SIGN THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN
15 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, WHO SHALL SIGN AS
16 A WITNESS AND ATTEST TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE VOTER SIGNED
17 THE CERTIFICATE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRESENCE, AND, IN ADDITION,
18 THE] voter shall certify, as prescribed in AS 09.63.020, under penalty of perjury, that
19 the statements in the voter's certification are true.

20 * **Sec. 30.** AS 15.20.081(e) is amended to read:

21 (e) An absentee ballot must be marked on or before the date of the election.
22 Except as provided in (h) of this section, a voter who returns the absentee ballot by
23 mail, whether provided to the voter by mail or by electronic transmission, shall use a
24 mail service at least equal to first class and mail the ballot not later than the day of the
25 election to the election supervisor for the house district in which the voter seeks to
26 vote. Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, the ballot may not be counted unless it is
27 received by the close of business on the 10th day after the election. [IF THE BALLOT
28 IS POSTMARKED, IT MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE ELECTION
29 DAY.] After the day of the election, ballots may not be accepted unless received by
30 mail. **A ballot received after the day of the election that is not postmarked or is**
31 **postmarked after the day of the election may not be counted unless the ballot**

1 envelope is marked with a United States Postal Service tracking barcode
 2 sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election
 3 or with a division of elections ballot tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the
 4 ballot was mailed on or before the day of the election.

5 * **Sec. 31.** AS 15.20.081(f) is amended to read:

6 (f) The director shall require a voter casting an absentee ballot by mail to
 7 provide proof of identification or other information to aid in the establishment of the
 8 voter's identity as prescribed by regulations adopted under AS 44.62 (Administrative
 9 Procedure Act). If the voter is a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by
 10 facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under
 11 AS 15.07.050 and has not met the identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060,
 12 the voter must provide one of the following forms of proof of identification:

13 (1) a copy of a driver's license, state identification card, current and
 14 valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or **identification card issued by**
 15 **a federally recognized tribe** [HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE]; or

16 (2) **an original or** a copy of a [CURRENT] utility bill, bank statement,
 17 paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item provided under
 18 this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter **and must be**
 19 **dated within the previous 60 days.**

20 * **Sec. 32.** AS 15.20.081(h) is amended to read:

21 (h) Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, an absentee ballot returned by mail
 22 from outside the United States or from an overseas voter qualifying under
 23 AS 15.05.011 that has been marked and mailed not later than election day may not be
 24 counted unless the ballot is received by the election supervisor not later than the close
 25 of business on the

26 [(1)] 10th day following **the** [A PRIMARY] election [OR SPECIAL
 27 PRIMARY ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.140; OR

28 (2) 15TH DAY FOLLOWING A GENERAL ELECTION OR
 29 SPECIAL ELECTION, OTHER THAN A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
 30 DESCRIBED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION].

31 * **Sec. 33.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (m) An absentee ballot application must include an option for a qualified voter
 2 to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state
 3 elections. The division may not require a voter who chooses this option to reapply for
 4 an absentee ballot by mail unless

5 (1) the voter has not voted an absentee ballot for a period of four years;
 6 or

7 (2) the voter's previous absentee ballot sent under this section was
 8 returned to the division as undeliverable.

9 * **Sec. 34.** AS 15.20.170 is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 15.20.170. Disposition of ballots.** Each absentee voting official shall
 11 transmit the dated envelopes containing the marked ballots by the most expeditious
 12 mail service to the election supervisor for the district. Upon receipt of the absentee
 13 ballots, the election supervisor shall stamp on the envelope the date on which the
 14 ballot is received. **In this section, "mail service" includes delivery by optical**
 15 **scanning and electronic transmission.**

16 * **Sec. 35.** AS 15.20.201(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) **Not** [NO] less than **12** [SEVEN] days preceding the day of election, the
 18 election supervisor, in the presence and with the assistance of the district absentee
 19 ballot counting board, shall review all voter certificates of absentee ballots received by
 20 that date. The review of absentee ballots shall continue at times designated by the
 21 election supervisor until completed.

22 * **Sec. 36.** AS 15.20.203(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) An absentee ballot **must be rejected** [MAY NOT BE COUNTED] if
 24 (1) the voter has failed to properly execute the certificate;
 25 (2) [AN OFFICIAL OR THE WITNESSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW
 26 TO ATTEST THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE FAIL TO EXECUTE THE
 27 CERTIFICATE, EXCEPT THAT AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CAST IN PERSON
 28 AND ACCEPTED BY AN ABSENTEE VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION
 29 SUPERVISOR MAY BE COUNTED DESPITE FAILURE OF THE ABSENTEE
 30 VOTING OFFICIAL OR ELECTION SUPERVISOR TO PROPERLY SIGN AND
 31 DATE THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE AS ATTESTING OFFICIAL AS REQUIRED

1 UNDER AS 15.20.061(c);

2 (3) THE BALLOT IS NOT ATTESTED ON OR BEFORE THE
3 DATE OF THE ELECTION;

4 (4) the ballot envelope and certificate, if delivered by mail after the
5 day of the election [POSTMARKED],

6 (A) is not postmarked or is postmarked after [ON OR
7 BEFORE] the date of the election and is not marked with a United States
8 Postal Service tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was
9 mailed on or before the day of the election or with a division of elections
10 ballot tracking barcode sufficient to verify that the ballot was mailed on or
11 before the day of the election;

12 (B) has a United States Postal Service tracking barcode
13 verifying that the ballot was mailed after the date of the election or a
14 division of elections ballot tracking barcode verifying that the ballot was
15 mailed after the date of the election; or

16 (C) is executed after the date of the election;

17 (3) [(5)] after the day of election, the ballot was delivered by a means
18 other than mail; or

19 (4) [OR (6)] the voter voted

20 (A) in person and is a

21 (i) first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by
22 facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director
23 under AS 15.07.050, has not provided the identification required by
24 AS 15.15.225(a), was not eligible for waiver of the identification
25 requirement under AS 15.15.225(b), and has not provided the
26 identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and (3) that can be verified
27 through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e); or

28 (ii) voter other than one described in (i) of this
29 subparagraph, did not provide identification described in
30 AS 15.15.225(a), was not personally known by the election official,
31 and has not provided the identifiers required in AS 15.07.060(a)(2) and

1 (3); or

2 (B) by mail or electronic transmission, is a first-time voter who
3 initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission
4 approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 to vote, has not met the
5 identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060, and does not submit with
6 the ballot a copy of a

7 (i) driver's license, state identification card, current and
8 valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or **identification**
9 **card issued by a federally recognized tribe** [HUNTING OR
10 FISHING LICENSE]; or

11 (ii) **an original or a copy of a** [CURRENT] utility bill,
12 bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government
13 document; an item described in this sub-subparagraph must show the
14 name and current address of the voter **and must be dated within the**
15 **previous 60 days.**

16 * **Sec. 37.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 **Sec. 15.20.215. Rules for challenging ballot.** The director shall adopt by
18 regulation a procedure and time frame for a person present at the ballot counting
19 review to challenge the decision of whether to count an absentee, special needs, or
20 questioned ballot. The procedure must provide a reasonable amount of time to submit
21 a challenge.

22 * **Sec. 38.** AS 15.20.220(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) The state review board shall review and count absentee ballots under
24 AS 15.20.081(e) and (h), **absentee ballots properly cured under AS 15.20.222**, and
25 questioned ballots that have been forwarded to the director and that have not been
26 reviewed or counted by a district counting board.

27 * **Sec. 39.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

28 **Sec. 15.20.221. Ballot-tracking system.** (a) The director shall establish an
29 online ballot-tracking system. If the director procures the system from a third party,
30 the third party must be a corporation that is incorporated in the United States. The
31 system must be designed to allow a voter to easily use the system through a mobile

1 electronic device. The system must allow a voter to

2 (1) confirm that the voter's ballot has been sent by the division;

3 (2) track the date of the ballot's delivery to the voter;

4 (3) confirm the division's receipt of the voter's ballot;

5 (4) determine whether the voter's ballot has been counted; and

6 (5) provide the information necessary to cure a rejected ballot.

7 (b) The online ballot-tracking system must

8 (1) use multi-factor authentication to verify a voter's identity; and

9 (2) indicate to a voter

10 (A) the process by which the voter may cure the lack of
11 signature or verify the voter's identity, if the signature on the voter's ballot was
12 missing; and

13 (B) the reason the voter's ballot was not counted, if the ballot
14 was not counted.

15 (c) The division may not charge a voter a fee to use the online ballot-tracking
16 system.

17 **Sec. 15.20.222. Procedure for curing uncounted ballot.** (a) If a voter's ballot
18 is rejected because the certificate is missing a signature or the voter provided
19 insufficient voter identification, the director shall immediately make a reasonable
20 effort to contact the voter, explain the ballot deficiency, explain how the deficiency
21 may be cured, and inform the voter of the deadline to cure the ballot. The director
22 shall, within 24 hours, send a notice of deficiency by electronic mail to the voter's
23 electronic mail address if the voter has provided an electronic mail address. If the
24 voter has provided a telephone number, the director shall, within 24 hours, attempt to
25 notify the voter of the deficiency by telephone call and text message. The director
26 shall, within 48 hours, but not later than five days after election day, send a notice of
27 deficiency by first class, nonforwardable mail to the address in the voter's registration
28 record.

29 (b) A notice of deficiency must include a form for the voter to confirm that the
30 voter returned a ballot to the division, provide a copy of a form of identification
31 accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a), and provide a signature. The director

1 shall provide a printed copy of the form with the notice of deficiency mailed to the
 2 voter. The director shall also make the form available in a format that can be
 3 completed and returned electronically.

4 (c) The rejected ballot of a voter who received a notice of deficiency may be
 5 counted only if

6 (1) the voter returns the completed form sent with the notice of
 7 deficiency, the division receives the form within 10 days after election day, and the
 8 form confirms that the voter returned a ballot to the division;

9 (2) the voter provides a signature and includes a copy of a form of
 10 identification accepted by the division under AS 15.15.225(a); and

11 (3) the ballot is otherwise valid.

12 (d) A voter's rejected ballot may not be counted and the director shall, if
 13 applicable, send copies of the signature on the voter's return envelope to the attorney
 14 general for investigation if the voter returns the form and the form indicates that the
 15 voter did not return a ballot to the division.

16 * **Sec. 40.** AS 15.20.480 is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 15.20.480. Procedure for recount.** In conducting the recount, the director
 18 shall review all ballots, whether the ballots were counted at the precinct or by
 19 computer or by the district absentee counting board or the questioned ballot counting
 20 board, to determine which ballots, or part of ballots, were properly marked and which
 21 ballots are to be counted in the recount, and shall check the accuracy of the original
 22 count, the precinct certificate, and the review. [THE DIRECTOR SHALL COUNT
 23 ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIVED BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE
 24 RECOUNT.] For administrative purposes, the director may join and include two or
 25 more applications in a single review and count of votes. The rules in AS 15.15.360
 26 governing the counting of ballots shall be followed in the recount when a ballot is
 27 challenged on the basis of a question regarding the voter's intent to vote for the
 28 candidate, proposition, or question. The ballots and other election material must
 29 remain in the custody of the director during the recount, and the highest degree of care
 30 shall be exercised to protect the ballots against alteration or mutilation. The recount
 31 shall be completed within 10 days. The director may employ additional personnel

1 necessary to assist in the recount.

2 * **Sec. 41.** AS 15.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Article 4A. Ballot Drop Boxes.**

4 **Sec. 15.20.850. Ballot drop boxes.** The director shall provide secure ballot
5 drop boxes. The director shall adopt regulations governing the use and location of
6 ballot drop boxes. The director shall provide a drop box at each division regional
7 office. When selecting drop box locations, the director may consult with
8 municipalities, school districts, tribal organizations, and nonpartisan civic
9 organizations. The director shall include in the regulations the criteria for selecting the
10 locations of drop boxes, the security requirements for the drop boxes, and a
11 requirement that drop boxes be open 24 hours a day in the 10 days before an election
12 day. The regulations must require that each drop box be open on the election day until
13 8:00 p.m. A municipality may provide a drop box under regulations adopted by the
14 director.

15 * **Sec. 42.** AS 15.56.030(d) is amended to read:

16 (d) For purposes of (a)(2) and (3) of this section, "other valuable thing"

17 (1) includes

18 (A) an entry in a game of chance in which a prize of money or
19 other present or future pecuniary gain or advantage may be awarded to a
20 participant wherein the total of the prizes offered is greater than \$2 per
21 participant with a maximum of \$100; and

22 (B) government employment or benefits;

23 (2) does not include

24 (A) materials having a nominal value bearing the name,
25 likeness, or other identification of a candidate, political party, political group,
26 party district committee, or organization, or stating a position on a ballot
27 proposition or question;

28 (B) food and refreshments provided incidental to an activity
29 that is nonpartisan in nature and directed at encouraging persons to vote, or
30 incidental to a gathering in support of or in opposition to a candidate, political
31 party, political group, party district committee, organization, or ballot question

1 or proposition;

2 (C) care of the voter's dependents provided in connection with
3 the absence of a voter from home for the purpose of voting;

4 (D) services provided by a person acting as a representative
5 under AS 15.20.072;

6 (E) services provided by an election official as defined in
7 AS 15.80.010; [AND]

8 (F) transportation of a voter to or from the polls without
9 charge; **and**

10 **(G) postage-paid return envelopes required in**
11 **AS 15.20.030.**

12 * **Sec. 43.** AS 15.56.060(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) A person commits the crime of unlawful interference with an election if
14 the person

15 (1) induces or attempts to induce an election official to fail in the
16 official's duty by force, threat, intimidation, or offers of reward;

17 (2) intentionally changes, attempts to change, or causes to be changed
18 an official election document including ballots, tallies, and returns;

19 (3) intentionally delays, attempts to delay, or causes to be delayed the
20 sending of the certificate, register, ballots, or other materials whether original or
21 duplicate, required to be sent by AS 15.15.370; [OR]

22 (4) is contracted or employed by the state to print or reproduce in any
23 manner an official ballot, and the person knowingly

24 (A) personally appropriates, or gives or delivers to, or permits
25 to be taken by anyone other than a person authorized by the director, official
26 ballots; or

27 (B) prints or reproduces or has printed or reproduced official
28 ballots in a form or with a content other than that prescribed by law or as
29 directed by the director;

30 **(5) intentionally opens or tampers with a signed absentee ballot**
31 **certificate, sealed absentee ballot envelope, or package of ballots without express**

1 **authorization from the director; or**

2 **(6) intentionally breaches, hacks, alters, or tampers with election**
 3 **machinery, including a tabulator, a program, a system, a server, or software used**
 4 **to verify identity, count or tabulate, or manage or control an election function.**

5 * **Sec. 44.** AS 15.56.070(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) A person commits the crime of election official misconduct in the first
 7 degree if, while an election official, the person

8 (1) intentionally fails to perform an election duty or knowingly does an
 9 unauthorized act with the intent to affect an election or its results;

10 (2) knowingly permits or makes or attempts to make a false count of
 11 election returns; [OR]

12 (3) intentionally conceals, withholds, destroys, or attempts to conceal,
 13 withhold, or destroy election returns; **or**

14 **(4) knowingly discloses, shares, or reports to a person who is not**
 15 **an election official election results, returns, or any confidential election data**
 16 **before the polls close on election day.**

17 * **Sec. 45.** AS 15.80 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 15.80.006. Cybersecurity.** The lieutenant governor shall, by regulation,
 19 develop a cybersecurity program to defend the voter registration records kept by the
 20 division against cyber attacks and data breaches and enable the division to detect and
 21 recover from cyber attacks. The program must include cybersecurity training for
 22 election officials.

23 * **Sec. 46.** AS 15.80 is amended by adding a new section to read:

24 **Sec. 15.80.009. Synthetic media in electioneering communications.** (a) A
 25 person may not knowingly use synthetic media in an electioneering communication
 26 with the intent to influence an election.

27 (b) An individual who is harmed by an electioneering communication that
 28 violates this section may bring an action in the superior court to recover damages, full
 29 reasonable attorney fees, and costs from

30 (1) the person who created the electioneering communication or
 31 retained the services of another to create the electioneering communication;

1 (2) a person who disseminates an electioneering communication
2 knowing that the electioneering communication includes synthetic media; or

3 (3) a person who removes a disclosure statement described in (d) of
4 this section from an electioneering communication with the intent to influence an
5 election and knowing that the electioneering communication includes synthetic media.

6 (c) An individual who is harmed by an electioneering communication that
7 violates this section may seek injunctive relief in the superior court to prohibit
8 publication of the synthetic media.

9 (d) It is a defense to an action under this section that

10 (1) the electioneering communication included the following
11 disclosure statement: "This (image/video/audio) has been manipulated" and

12 (A) for visual media that included other text, the text of the
13 disclosure statement remained visible throughout the entirety of the
14 communication, was easily readable by the average viewer, and was in a font
15 not smaller than the largest font size of any other text that appeared in the
16 visual component;

17 (B) for visual media that did not include any other text, the
18 disclosure statement was in a font size that was easily readable by the average
19 viewer;

20 (C) for a communication that consisted of only audio, the
21 disclosure statement was read

22 (i) at the beginning of the audio, at the end of the audio,
23 and, if the audio was longer than two minutes in duration, at intervals
24 interspersed within the audio that occurred at least once every two
25 minutes; and

26 (ii) in a clear manner and in a pitch and at a speed that
27 was easily heard by the average listener; or

28 (2) the synthetic media constitutes satire or parody.

29 (e) An interactive computer service, Internet service provider, cloud service
30 provider, telecommunications network, or radio or television broadcaster, including a
31 cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, is not liable under this

1 section for hosting, publishing, or distributing an electioneering communication
2 provided by another person. For purposes of this section, a developer of the
3 technology used to create synthetic media that is in an electioneering communication
4 is not the creator of the electioneering communication. This subsection does not
5 prevent an individual from bringing an action under (b)(3) of this section for removing
6 a disclosure statement.

7 (f) In this section,

8 (1) "access software provider" means a provider of client, server, or
9 other software or enabling tools that

10 (A) filter, screen, allow, or disallow content;

11 (B) pick, choose, analyze, or digest content; or

12 (C) transmit, receive, display, forward, cache, search, subset,
13 organize, reorganize, or translate content;

14 (2) "artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for
15 explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input the system receives, how to
16 generate outputs, including predictions, content, recommendations, and decisions that
17 can influence physical or virtual environments, with different artificial intelligence
18 systems varying in levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment;

19 (3) "electioneering communication" means a communication that

20 (A) directly or indirectly identifies a candidate or political
21 party;

22 (B) is disseminated through a mailing, a newspaper, the
23 Internet, or broadcast media, including radio, television, cable, or satellite, to
24 an audience that includes voters who will have the opportunity to vote on a
25 candidate identified in the communication or on a candidate of a party
26 identified in the communication; and

27 (C) when read as a whole and with limited reference to outside
28 events, is susceptible of no other reasonable interpretation but as an
29 exhortation to vote for or against a specific candidate;

30 (4) "interactive computer service" means an information service,
31 system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by

1 multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that
 2 provides access to the Internet and systems operated or services offered by libraries or
 3 educational institutions;

4 (5) "synthetic media"

5 (A) means an image, audio recording, or video recording of an
 6 individual's appearance, speech, or conduct that is manipulated by artificial
 7 intelligence in a manner that creates a realistic but false image, audio
 8 recording, or video recording and produces

9 (i) a depiction that a reasonable person would believe is
 10 of a real individual in appearance, speech, or conduct but did not
 11 actually occur in reality; and

12 (ii) a materially different understanding or impression
 13 than a reasonable person would have from the unaltered, original
 14 version of the image, audio recording, or video recording;

15 (B) does not include an image, audio recording, or video
 16 recording that is minimally edited, adjusted, or enhanced by artificial
 17 intelligence without materially altering how the meaning or significance of the
 18 depiction would be perceived by a reasonable person.

19 * **Sec. 47.** AS 19.25.105(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of
 21 the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of the
 22 interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state except the following:

23 (1) directional and other official signs and notices **that** [WHICH]
 24 include [, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,] signs and notices pertaining to natural
 25 wonders, scenic and historic attractions, which are required or authorized by law, and
 26 which shall conform to federal standards for interstate and primary systems;

27 (2) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property
 28 **on** [UPON] which they are located or advertising activities conducted on the property;

29 (3) signs determined by the state, subject to concurrence of the United
 30 States Department of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm
 31 structures or natural surfaces of historic or artistic significance, the preservation of

1 which would be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

2 (4) directional signs and notices pertaining to schools;

3 (5) advertising on bus benches or bus shelters, and adjacent trash
4 receptacles, if the state determines that the advertising conforms to local, state, and
5 federal standards for interstate and primary highways;

6 **(6) temporary political campaign signs not larger than 32 square**
7 **feet in size displayed on private property if the owner or resident of the property**
8 **is not being compensated for the display, the sign is not a risk to the public, and**
9 **the sign is outside of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway right-of-way.**

10 * **Sec. 48.** AS 24.45.091 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 24.45.091. Publication of reports.** Copies of the statements and reports
12 filed under this chapter shall be made available to the public at the commission's
13 **offices and on the commission's Internet website** [CENTRAL OFFICE, THE
14 OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
15 LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY, AND AT THE
16 COMMISSION'S DISTRICT OFFICES PRESCRIBED IN AS 15.13.020(j)] as soon
17 as practicable after each reporting period.

18 * **Sec. 49.** AS 24.45.111(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) The commission shall preserve the statements and reports required to be
20 filed under this chapter for a period of six years from the date of filing. **Copies** [IF
21 THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL OFFICE IS NOT IN THE STATE CAPITAL,
22 COPIES] of all statements and reports filed under this chapter shall be maintained in
23 **the commission's offices and be made available on the commission's Internet**
24 **website** [AN OFFICE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION IN THE STATE
25 CAPITAL OR IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR].

26 * **Sec. 50.** AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

27 (65) Redistricting Board.

28 * **Sec. 51.** AS 43.23.015(b) is amended to read:

29 (b) The department shall prescribe and furnish an application form for
30 claiming a permanent fund dividend. The application must include

31 (1) notice of the penalties provided for under AS 43.23.270;

1 (2) a statement of eligibility and a certification of residency;

2 (3) the means for an applicant eligible to vote under AS 15.05, or a
3 person authorized to act on behalf of the applicant, to furnish information required by
4 AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9), and an attestation that such information is true,
5 **as well as a prominent notice informing the applicant that the applicant may**
6 **decline to register to vote or update the applicant's voter information.**

7 * **Sec. 52.** AS 43.23.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (k) When an applicant applies for a permanent fund dividend on an Internet
9 website, the department shall inform the applicant that the applicant may decline to
10 register to vote or update the applicant's voter information. The Internet webpage
11 displaying the information required under this subsection must allow the applicant to
12 decline to register to vote or update the applicant's voter information.

13 * **Sec. 53.** AS 43.23.101 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 43.23.101. Voter registration.** **Each month, the** [THE] commissioner
15 shall [ESTABLISH BY RULE A SCHEDULE BY WHICH THE COMMISSIONER
16 WILL PROVIDE, AND SHALL] provide [AS SOON AS IS PRACTICABLE] the
17 director of elections with **the following information for each permanent fund**
18 **dividend applicant:**

19 (1) **the** electronic **record** [RECORDS FROM THE PERMANENT
20 FUND DIVIDEND APPLICATIONS] of the information required by
21 AS 15.07.060(a)(1) - (4) and (7) - (9) [,] and the attestation that **the** [SUCH]
22 information is true [,] for each permanent fund dividend applicant who **does not**
23 **decline to register to vote or update the applicant's voter information under**
24 **AS 43.23.015(b)(3) or (k);**

25 [(A) IS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES; AND

26 (B) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE OR WILL BE
27 WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION; AND]

28 (2) the **applicant's mailing address;**

29 **(3) the applicant's affirmation of residency and the names and**
30 **contact information of persons the applicant listed for purposes of verifying**
31 **residency;**

1 **(4) indication of the applicant's voter registration status, if known;**

2 **and**

3 **(5) whether the applicant has claimed residency in another state**

4 [ADDRESSES FOR ALL PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND APPLICANTS].

5 * **Sec. 54.** AS 43.23.101 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

6 (b) The commissioner shall develop security protocols that ensure data
7 required to be stored or transferred under this section is securely stored or transferred.

8 (c) In cooperation with the division of elections under AS 15.07.070(o), the
9 commissioner shall submit an annual report to the governor and to the senate secretary
10 and chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before the first day of each
11 regular session of the legislature and notify the legislature that the report is available.

12 * **Sec. 55.** AS 44.62.310(h)(3) is amended to read:

13 (3) "public entity" means an entity of the state or of a political
14 subdivision of the state including an agency, a board or commission, **the**
15 **Redistricting Board**, the University of Alaska, a public authority or corporation, a
16 municipality, a school district, and other governmental units of the state or a political
17 subdivision of the state; it does not include the court system or the legislative branch
18 of state government.

19 * **Sec. 56.** AS 15.07.064(g) and AS 15.10.170(b) are repealed

20 * **Sec. 57.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
21 read:

22 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. The division of elections shall provide a report
23 to the legislature by November 1, 2026, recommending options for expanding early voting in
24 rural communities and low-income neighborhoods. The division shall deliver the report to the
25 senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature
26 that the report is available. In this section,

27 (1) "low-income neighborhood" means a neighborhood where the median
28 family income is below 80 percent of the statewide median family income;

29 (2) "rural community" means a community with a population of 7,500 or less
30 that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks or a community with a
31 population of 3,500 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

1 * **Sec. 58.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 APPLICABILITY. AS 15.56.030(d), as amended by sec. 41 of this Act,
4 AS 15.56.060(a), as amended by sec. 43 of this Act, and AS 15.56.070(a), as amended by sec.
5 44 of this Act, apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

6 * **Sec. 59.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.