

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HARRIS

2 SENATE BILL NO. 214

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for succession to the office of
7 secretary of state."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 44.19.120 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

10 Sec. 44.19.120. SUCCESSOR TO SECRETARY OF STATE. (a) If a
11 vacancy occurs in the office of secretary of state, the successor to the
12 office is the speaker of the house of representatives or the president
13 of the senate, whoever has the most seniority. If they have equal
14 seniority, the speaker of the house succeeds to the office of secretary
15 of state and the president of the senate is next in line for succession.
16 After the person with the most seniority succeeds to the office of
17 secretary of state, the other person is next in line for succession.

18 (b) The person with the most seniority is the person with the
19 greatest number of successive terms of service, including the present
20 term, in the house in which he is presently a member.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 Sec. 44.19.125. APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TO SECRETARY OF STATE.
23 After initially taking office, the governor shall appoint, from among
24 the officers who head the principal departments of the state government
25 or otherwise, a person to succeed to the office of secretary of state
26 after the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of
27 the senate in the line of succession, if the office of secretary of
28 state becomes vacant. The appointment is subject to confirmation by a
29 majority of the members of the legislature meeting in joint session.

1 The person designated and confirmed is third in line for succession to
2 the office of secretary of state, subject to the pleasure of the gover-
3 nor. If the person designated and confirmed is removed from or vacates
4 the appointment, the governor shall appoint a successor subject to con-
5 firmation in the same manner as the person initially appointed.

6 * Sec. 3. AS 44.19.130 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 44.19.130. SUCCESSION TO OFFICE. If a vacancy occurs in the
8 office of governor and the regularly elected secretary of state succeeds
9 to the office of governor as provided by art. III, sec. 11 of the
10 constitution, or if the office of secretary of state otherwise becomes
11 vacant, the person designated as next successor to the office of secre-
12 tary of state as provided in sec. 120 of this chapter succeeds to the
13 office of secretary of state for the remainder of the term vacated, or
14 until a special election is held. When the person designated in [AP-
15 POINTED UNDER] sec. 120 of this chapter succeeds to the office of sec-
16 retary of state, the other person designated in sec. 120 of this chapter
17 is next in line of succession to the office of secretary of state in
18 case of a subsequent vacancy [THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A PERSON TO
19 SUCCEED TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE IN CASE OF A SUBSEQUENT
20 VACANCY]. If, for any reason the office of secretary of state again
21 becomes vacant, the person designated as second in line of succession
22 in sec. 120 of this chapter succeeds to the office of secretary of
23 state until a special election is held. In this event, the person
24 appointed under sec. 125 of this chapter is next in line of succession
25 to the office of secretary of state, pending the special election.

26 * Sec. 4. AS 44.19.140 is amended to read:

27 Sec. 44.19.140. SPECIAL ELECTION IN CASE OF SECOND VACANCY IN
28 OFFICE OF GOVERNOR. If the regularly elected secretary of state suc-
29 ceeds to the office of governor as provided in the constitution and the

1 person designated in sec. 120 of this chapter succeeds to the office of
2 secretary of state and thereafter, during the same regular gubernatorial term, the office of governor again becomes vacant, the successors designated in sec. 120 of this chapter succeed to the offices of
3 acting governor and acting secretary of state [APPOINTED SECRETARY OF
4 STATE SUCCEEDS TO THE OFFICE OF ACTING GOVERNOR] until a special election to elect a governor and secretary of state is held. Pending the
5 special election, the person appointed under sec. 125 of this chapter
6 is next in line of succession to the office of secretary of state.

7
8
9
10 * Sec. 5. AS 44.19.150 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 44.19.150. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES. If vacancies in the office of governor and the office of secretary of state occur simultaneously, the persons designated in [PERSON APPOINTED UNDER] sec. 120
12 of this chapter succeed [SUCCEEDS] directly to the office of acting
13 governor and acting secretary of state until successors to the respective offices are elected in a special election.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29