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IN THE HOUSE

BY RAY AND TILLION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to political advertising."

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

* Section 1. AS 15.15.170 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.15.170. PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL PERSUASION ON ELECTION DAY [NEAR ELECTION POLLS]. (a) During the hours the polls are open, no person who is in the polling place or within 100 feet of any entrance to the polling place, may attempt to persuade a person to vote for or against a candidate, proposition or question. The election judges shall post warning notices at the required distance in the form and manner prescribed by the secretary of state.

(b) At no time during an election day may a person sponsor in any form of mass medium a paid advertisement which attempts to persuade another to vote for or against a candidate, proposition or question. This prohibition does not prevent an individual from merely responding to an adverse editorial or exercising his right to equal broadcast time, under applicable federal law or regulations, when the editorial or opposing broadcast is timed so as to make a reasonable response before election day impossible.

* Sec. 2. AS 15.65.010 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.65.010. ELECTIONEERING PROHIBITED ON ELECTION DAY [NEAR POLLING PLACES]. (a) Any person who electioneers, circulates cards or handbills of any kind, posts political signs or posters, hands out marked ballots, or solicits signatures to a political petition on a local election day within 100 feet of a polling place or building in

1 which an election is being held, or who obstructs the door or entry
2 to a polling place, or prevents free ingress to and egress from a
3 polling place, or who at any time during a local election day sponsors
4 in any form of mass medium a paid advertisement which attempts to
5 persuade another to vote for or against a candidate, proposition or
6 question, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than
7 \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than six months or by both.

8 (b) The prohibition of election-day advertising in (a) of this
9 section does not prevent an individual from merely responding to an
10 adverse editorial or exercising his right to equal broadcast time,
11 under applicable federal law or regulations, when the editorial or
12 opposing broadcast is timed so as to make a reasonable response before
13 election day impossible.