



STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST**

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 430, 459-60  
 Title: repeal of Presidential  
Party Primary statutes  
 Sponsor: Gov., Lacher, Ward  
 Requestor: (H) State Affairs  
 Date of Request: 1/10/84

**FISCAL DETAIL**

Agency Affected: Division of Elections  
 Program Category Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
<b>OPERATING</b>						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	(222.0)					
200 TRAVEL	( 15.3)					
300 CONTRACTUAL	(562.7)					
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>(800.0)</b>					
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	1,000.0					
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:** By January 24, 1984 \$200.0 of the \$1,000.0 special fund established by Ch. 20, SLA 1983 will be expended, reflecting a savings of \$800.0 by the repeal of AS 15.25.220 - AS 15.25.280.

**ANALYSIS:** Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: T.P. Thoma Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division: Division of Elections Date: 1/16/84  
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: 1/16/84  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Introduced: 5/31/83  
Referred: State Affairs,  
Judiciary and Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 430

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act repealing the statutes that require a presi-  
7 dential party primary election; and providing for an  
8 effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 15.13.011, AS 15.25.220 -- 15.25.280, and sec. 4, ch.  
11 20, SLA 1980 are repealed.

12 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-  
13 10.070(c).

OPENING REMARKS FOR HB 430:

HB 430 WOULD REPEAL A LAW ENACTED IN 1980 TO PROVIDE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY. HB 430 COULD RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF AS MUCH AS \$800,000. THIS DEPENDS, HOWEVER, ON THE TIMING OF ITS PASSAGE BY THE LEGISLATURE. PLEASE REFER TO THE INFORMATION IN YOUR FILE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE COST SAVINGS AS WELL AS A SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF REPEAL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY STATUTES WHICH WAS PREPARED BY THE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS.

House Bills 430, 459, 460 - Repeal of March 13 Presidential Primary Election.

A timely repeal of this primary could save considerable monies. The dates and activities noted in each block are deadlines for the fraction of monies committed. By February 12, approximately 1/2 of the funds to be expended will be committed. Any bill to repeal must have an immediate effective date incorporated. February 20th, when ballots have been shipped by certified mail and final notices are committed to advertising seems to be a date, admittedly arbitrary, when the election should proceed.

<p>JANUARY 9 1/8 funds</p> <hr/> <p>Travel/Training (election board wkrs ongoing)</p> <p>initial ordering of: -special forms -posters, other materials -voter ID cards -voter register- ation forms</p> <p>program costs for party affiliation &amp; precinct regist- ration changes</p> <p>temporary staff hired</p>
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<p>JANUARY 24 1/4 funds</p> <hr/> <p>Travel/Training election board wkrs</p> <p>order all ballots</p> <p>sign program contract</p> <p>initial advertising (print &amp; video contracted)</p> <p>purchase supplies &amp; postage to all precincts</p> <p>40 day notices sent out mass mailings</p>
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<p>FEBRUARY 12 1/2 funds</p> <hr/> <p>Travel/Training election board wkrs</p> <p>airmail all remaining material</p> <p>contract for com- munications (election returns cable hoodups, sites)</p> <p>ballots separated &amp; shipped from printer</p>
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<p>FEBRUARY 20 3/4 funds</p> <hr/> <p>Travel/Training election board wkrs</p> <p>10 day notices sent out</p> <p>secondary advert's- ing contracted (print, radio, video)</p> <p>certify-mail all ballots to precincts</p>
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<p>MARCH 13 Total funds</p> <hr/> <p>payment of all election workers, including: tally teams counting teams canvass boards</p> <p>rents for halls</p> <p>transportation of ballots, troopers</p> <p>polling place set- ups by contractors</p>
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PRESIDENTIAL PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION  
March 13, 1984

Background

In the 1980 legislative session, members of the state House and Senate were successful in getting statutory authority for Alaska's first Presidential party primary. AS 15.25.220-280 authorizes this primary for 1984. The primary was approved chiefly because of the argument that candidates would come to Alaska, campaign, and learn more about the state. This primary election was to be binding on the delegate selection process by the terms of the statute.

In May 1983, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in LaFollette vs. U.S., concluding that in order for a presidential primary election to be binding on political parties in the delegate selection process, the conduct of the election must comply with party rules. Both Democratic and Republican party rules require a CLOSED primary election before the results can bind the delegate selection process. In order to comply, the Division of Elections had hoped that a voter's party preference could be declared without physically changing his or her registration. This plan was rejected by both of the parties because it failed to comply with national party rules.

The Division of Elections then adopted what is known as the Massachusetts plan for presidential primaries. This requires registered party members to vote their party's ballot while non-partisans may choose which party to join on election day. As a result, only those voters who declare a party preference and are willing to have their voter registration changed will be allowed to vote on March 13 in Alaska.

Since 58% (151,500) of Alaska's voters are non-partisan or registered "other", a procedure was adopted to accommodate all voters; by allowing this 58% and the 1,017 registered Libertarians (who chose not to appear on the ballot) to declare a party affiliation up to and including election day, while requiring any Democrats or Republicans that wish to change their party affiliation to do so no less than 30 days prior to March 13.

## Reasons for Repeal

- 1) Approximately \$.8 million would be saved by repeal of AS 15.25.220-280.
- 2) The method of voting is both objectionable and confusing to voters. Every letter and communication received on this issue has been vehemently opposed to the method of conducting the primary. Alaskans seem satisfied with the present, "blanket," open primary system of voting; they pride themselves on their status as informed independents.
- 3) The primary is an undue administrative burden on the many citizens that serve Alaska's polling places. In addition to the many hours of new training necessary to explain the primary to these workers, the sharp change in the regular rules of voting will focus undeserved criticism on the poll workers for a one-time method of primary election. Confusion over voter eligibility will also tend to discourage voters from casting a primary ballot. This problem is exacerbated in the absentee-by-mail voting process.
- 4) Only one of the nine major Presidential candidates have traveled to Alaska to campaign. It appears that the chief argument for the primary has not occurred. (Nine other states are also having primaries on this date.)
- 5) Alaska's delegate strength to the two major party conventions is so small, .4 of 1% of delegate votes, that spending up to \$1 million on such an election could easily be viewed as a waste of money by the majority of the electorate.
- 6) Since only one candidate will appear on each the Republican and Alaska Independence Party ballots, the secrecy of the vote is compromised.
- 7) If the primary is repealed, the political parties will return to the traditional methods of apportioning delegates by caucus and convention.

# McAlpine advises halt to presidential primary

by Dean Fosdick  
Associated Press

Juneau — Lt. Gov. Stephen McAlpine said Monday the presidential primary should be junked — and quickly — before more money is spent preparing for the March 13 election.

A month ago, McAlpine said he felt it was too late to repeal the law authorizing Alaska's first presidential primary despite his long opposition to the idea.

His statement Monday followed the pre-filing of two House bills calling for scrapping the election.

McAlpine expressed some irritation that lawmakers were moving to repeal the primary law after having adjourned the 1983 session without acting on a

Sheffield administration measure to kill the primary.

He called the law "well-intentioned" but "defective."

Because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Alaska presidential primary will require non-partisans to declare a party affiliation before casting ballots.

"There's been some political fall-out for the legislature," McAlpine said, indicating that 58 percent of Alaska's 263,000 registered voters are non-partisan.

When lawmakers passed the measure last year, they didn't realize the Supreme Court would change the rules of the game, disallowing "open" primaries that allow cross-over voting, he said.

"Lawmakers are now recog-

nizing that if the 58 percent are not upset, they're at least dismayed," said McAlpine, who as lieutenant governor oversees elections. "The law is defective. It's well-intentioned but not well-produced.

"I'm not going to go down and knock on (legislators) doors to make a concerted effort to see it repealed," he said. "But we are recommending that the legislation be repealed. We will be happy to talk to lawmakers about it."

McAlpine said even though he would like to see the law killed, state officials must continue preparations for the election.

State election officials have said that 25 percent of the \$1 million appropriated for the election will have been spent by Jan. 24, 50 percent by Feb. 12 and 75 percent by Feb. 20.



Box 104073  
Anchorage, AK  
(907) 279-0050

Contact: Dick Randolph: 452-2206  
or Duncan Scott: 279-0050

### PRESS RELEASE

*Chair*  
Dick Randolph  
Fairbanks

*Vice Chair*  
Ruth Reed  
Wasilla

*Secretary*  
Colleen Olds  
Kodiak

*Treasurer*  
Judy Clarke  
Fairbanks

*Membership*  
Susan Hickman  
Eagle River

*Cont. & By-Laws*  
Curtis Green  
Anchorage

*Platform*  
Andie Marrou  
Homer

*Nominations*  
Lydia Randolph  
Fairbanks

*Elections*  
Ben Olds  
Kodiak

*Vice Committee*  
Steve DeLacey  
Anchorage

*Executive Director*  
Duncan Scott  
Anchorage

The attached letter was mailed to each legislator as part of an effort to encourage them to act timely to cancel the March 13, 1984 primary.

"It is our plan to bring maximum public pressure to bear through, encouraging editorial comment, letters to the editor, talk show programs and direct appeal from thousands of Alaskans to their legislators", said Randolph.



Dec. 22, 1983

Box 104073

Anchorage, AK 99510

(907) 279-0050  
Dear

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Alaskan Libertarian Party has requested and the Lt. Governor has agreed, that the name of our Presidential nominee, David Bergland not be included on the ballot for Alaska's Presidential Primary scheduled for March 13, 1984. We made this request because:

*Chair*  
Dick Randolph  
Fairbanks

*Vice Chair*  
Ruth Reed  
Wasilla

*Secretary*  
Coileen Olds  
Kodiak

*Treasurer*  
Judy Clarke  
Fairbanks

*Membership*  
Susan Hickman  
Eagle River

*Const. & By-Laws*  
Curtis Green  
Anchorage

*Platform*  
Andre Marrou  
Homer

*Nominations*  
Lydia Randolph  
Fairbanks

*Elections*  
Ben Olds  
Kodiak

*Nat'l Committee*  
Steve DeLisio  
Anchorage

*Executive Director*  
Duncan Scott  
Anchorage

1. We are absolutely opposed to forcing Alaskans, a majority of whom have chosen not to do so, to register with one of the official parties in order to exercise their right to vote.
2. We strongly disagree with spending \$1-2 million dollars of public money to assist private political parties in gaining publicity for themselves and their candidates.
3. We do not believe that this Presidential Primary will have any effect on who the national Republican or Democratic conventions select as their nominee. In fact it's our understanding that there is enough uncertainty about seating the delegates selected by this primary that both of these parties are planning to select their delegates in the traditional manner. If this is the case then any shred of justification for holding this primary evaporates.
4. Finally, I personally believe that if this election takes place, it's going to create an immense amount of frustration and animosity among Alaskans. Imagine the scene at each polling place as one would be voter after another are informed that if they have not previously shown a party affiliation they MUST now register a party affiliation or that if they have shown a party affiliation they can't change it, that that choice had to be made 30 days ago.

Without question, March 13th will be the most chaotic election day in Alaska's history and for what purpose.

The legislature has it within it's power to repeal this law and hence cancel this election. I most sincerely urge you to do so. Clearly the negatives far outweigh any arguable benefits. Only you; the members of the legislature, can prevent this waste and frustration. We are working to create a political environment where in repeal will be not only possible but popular and urge you to take the necessary action in time.

Most sincerely,

Dick Randolph  
Chair, ALP

§ 15.13.010

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§ 15.13.011

ELECTIONS

§ 15.13.020

chapter. The question of exemption from the requirements of this chapter may be submitted by the city council or borough assembly by ordinance or by initiative ordinance. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a municipality from regulating by ordinance campaign contributions and expenditures.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, this chapter applies to contributions, expenditures and communications made by a candidate, group, municipality or individual for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a ballot proposition or question as well as those made to influence the nomination or election of a candidate. (§ 1 ch 76 SLA 1974; am §§ 1, 2 ch 189 SLA 1975)

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Constitutionality. — In the case of First Nat'l Bank v. Bellotti, 435 U.S. 765, 98 S. Ct. 1407, 55 L. Ed. 2d 707, rehearing denied, 438 U.S. 907, 98 S. Ct. 3126, 57 L. Ed. 2d 1150 (1978), the supreme court of the United States has indicated in unmistakable terms that state disclosure laws pertaining to ballot issues are constitutional. Messerli v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 2236 (File No. 4326), 626 P.2d 81 (1980).

When there is no showing that an individual must remain anonymous with respect to advertising as to ballot propositions because of the possibility of being subject to reprisals, economic or otherwise, the state campaign disclosure laws are not unconstitutional as applied to a contributor hoping to influence the outcome of a ballot issue because the objective of an informed electorate is sufficiently compelling to overcome an interest in anonymous political expression.

Messerli v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 2236 (File No. 4326), 626 P.2d 81 (1980).

Initiative substantially similar to ch. 76, SLA 1974, correctly withheld from ballot. — Substantial similarity existed between ch. 76, SLA 1974, which enacted this chapter, relating to election campaigns, and an initiative relating to campaign contributions and expenditures, which was filed with the lieutenant governor prior to the regular 1974 session of the legislature. The act effectively displaced the initiative, and the lieutenant governor was correct in withholding the initiative from the ballot. Warren v. Boucher, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1205 (File No. 2315), 543 P.2d 731 (1975).

For comparison of ch. 76, SLA 1974, and the initiative, see Warren v. Boucher, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1205 (File No. 2315), 543 P.2d 731 (1975).

Sec. 15.13.011. Inapplicability to presidential primary. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to a presidential primary election conducted under AS 15.25.220 — 15.25.280. (§ 3 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.13.020. Alaska Public Offices Commission. (a) There is created in the Department of Administration the Alaska Public Offices Commission consisting of five members.

(b) The governor shall appoint two members of each of the two political parties whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes in the most recent preceding general election at which a governor was elected. The two appointees from each of these two parties shall be chosen from a list of four names to be submitted by the central committee of each party.

(c) The four members selected under (b) of this section shall, by a majority vote, appoint the remaining fifth member of the commission.

**Effect of amendments.** — The 1980 amendment substituted "director" for "lieutenant governor" where it appears at the beginning of the first sentence and near the beginning of the third sentence, deleted "the same rate of" preceding "compensation" near the middle of the second sentence, and substituted "as provided in AS 15.15.380" for "paid elections judges" at the end of the second sentence.

The 1982 amendment, effective May 28, 1982, substituted "state ballot counting review" for "canvassing of the vote" in the first sentence and for "canvassing" in the fifth sentence.

**Editor's notes.** — This section was redrafted by the revisor of statutes to remove personal pronouns in conformity with AS 01.05.031(c) and § 4, Chapter 58, SLA 1982.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Applied in *Silides v. Thomas*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1362 (File Nos. 3019, 3020, 3021), 559 P.2d 80 (1977).

Chapter 13. State Election Campaigns.

Section

- 10. Applicability
- 11. Inapplicability to presidential primary
- 20. Alaska Public Offices Commission
- 30. Duties of the commission
- 40. Contributions, expenditures and supplying of services to be reported
- 45. Investigations, hearings
- 50. Groups
- 60. Campaign treasurers
- 70. Contributions and expenditures; amount and form of payment

Section

- 80. Statement by contributor
- 90. Identification of communication
- 100. Expenditures before filing
- 110. Filing of reports
- 120. Penalty; limitations on actions
- 122. Legal counsel
- 125. Civil penalty; late filing of required reports
- 130. Definitions

**Collateral references.** — 25 Am. Jur. 2d, Elections, §§ 4-7, 10, 280-290.

29 C.J.S., Elections, §§ 2-4, 6, 118(7), 216(1)-216(5).

**Sec. 15.13.010. Applicability.** (a) This chapter applies in every election for governor, lieutenant governor, a member of the state legislature, a delegate to a constitutional convention, or judge seeking electoral confirmation. It also applies to every candidate for election to a municipal office in a city or borough with a population of more than 1,000 inhabitants according to the latest United States census figures or estimates of population certified as correct for administrative purposes by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. A municipality may exempt its elected municipal officers from the requirements of this chapter if a majority of the voters voting on the question at any regular election, as defined by AS 29.78.010(14), or a special municipality-wide election called for that purpose, vote to exempt its elected municipal officers from the requirements of this

HB 460

(9) that the subscribers are qualified voters of the state or election or senate district in which the candidate resides,

(10) that the subscribers intend to vote for the candidate at the general election,

(11) that the subscribers request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot,

(12) that the proposed candidate accepts the nomination and will serve if elected, with the statement signed by the proposed candidate,

(13) if the candidacy is for the office of the governor, the name of the candidate for lieutenant governor running jointly with him,

(14) the name of the candidate as he wishes it to appear on the ballot, and

(15) that the candidate is not a candidate for any other office to be voted on at the primary or general election and that he has not filed another nominating petition or declaration of candidacy for the office for which this petition is filed. (§ 5.55 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 22 ch 80 SLA 1963; am § 140 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment added paragraphs (14) and (15).

**Sec. 15.25.190. Placement of names on general election ballot.** The director shall place the names and the political group affiliation of persons who have been properly nominated by petition on the general election ballot. (§ 5.56 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 141 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "director" for "lieutenant governor" at the beginning of the section.

**Sec. 15.25.200. Withdrawal of candidate's name.** If a candidate nominated by petition dies or withdraws after the petition has been filed and before September 1 of the election year, the director shall not place the name of the candidate on the general election ballot. (§ 5.57 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 142 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "director" for "lieutenant governor" near the middle of the section.

**Article 3. Presidential Party Primary Election.**

Section	Section
220. Presidential party primary election	250. Selection of delegates
230. Placing recognized names on the ballot	260. Delegates pledged
240. Petition for presidential candidate	270. No other elections on the same date
	280. Procedures for conduct of election

Article repealed effective July 1, 1985. — Section 4, ch. 20, SLA 1980, provides that this article is repealed on July 1, 1985.

Collateral references. — 25 Am. Jur. 29 C.J.S., Elections, §§ 89-105, 111(1)-148. 2d, Elections, §§ 128-143, 152, 179.

**Sec. 15.25.220. Presidential party primary election.** (a) The lieutenant governor shall call a presidential party primary election on the third Tuesday in April of a presidential election year.

(b) The lieutenant governor may conduct the presidential party primary election on a date different from the date set in (a) of this section if he sets the different date in a proclamation issued by September 1 of the year preceding the presidential election.

(c) The ballot shall be prepared and distributed by the lieutenant governor in the manner prescribed by AS 15.25.060. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Editor's notes. — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.230. Placing recognized names on the ballot.** (a) The lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot the name of each candidate generally recognized throughout the United States as a candidate for nomination for President of the United States.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall announce on the last Tuesday in January of a presidential election year a list of candidates who will appear on the ballot. The lieutenant governor shall also notify each candidate that the candidate's name will appear on the ballot in this state.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall notify each candidate that he may withdraw his name from the ballot by filing with the lieutenant governor no later than the last Tuesday in February of a presidential election year a statement that he is not now and does not intend to become a candidate for the office of President of the United States at that presidential election and requesting the removal of his name. The name of a candidate withdrawing under this section may not appear on the ballot.

(d) If the lieutenant governor calls the presidential party primary election for a date different from the date set under AS 15.25.220(a),

(1) the announcement required by (b) of this section shall be made no later than the Tuesday that is 11 weeks before the date of the election; and

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(2) the statement required by (c) of this section shall be filed no later than the Tuesday that is seven weeks before the election. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

*Editor's notes.* — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.240. Petition for presidential candidate.** (a) Supporters of a candidate for nomination for President of the United States may file a petition to have the name of the candidate of their choice on the ballot. A petition under this section must be filed by the last Tuesday in February of a presidential election year and must contain the signatures of qualified voters residing in no less than two-thirds of the election districts of the state equal in number to five percent of the number of votes cast for the candidates for governor in the preceding election for governor. A petition under this section shall include (1) the full name of the candidate; (2) the name of the political group supporting the candidate; (3) the name of the political party in which the candidate is registered; (4) a statement that the subscribers are qualified voters of the state; and (5) a statement that the subscribers request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot. The signature sheets shall also contain the printed name and residence address of each qualified voter whose signature appears on the petition.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall notify a candidate of the filing of a petition under this section and advise that he may withdraw his name from the ballot by filing with the lieutenant governor no later than the first Tuesday in March of a presidential election year a statement that he is not now nor does he intend to become a candidate for the office of President of the United States at that presidential election and requesting the removal of his name. The name of a candidate withdrawing under this subsection may not appear on the ballot.

(c) If the lieutenant governor calls the presidential party primary election for a date different from the date set under AS 15.25.220(a),

(1) the petition required by (a) of this section shall be filed no later than the Tuesday that is seven weeks before the date of the election; and

(2) the statement required by (b) of this section shall be filed no later than the Tuesday that is six weeks before the election. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

*Editor's notes.* — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.250. Selection of delegates.** (a) The political parties in the state shall select delegates to their national conventions according to the party's plan of organization. The final selection of delegates shall be held after the presidential party primary election.

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(b) Each candidate who receives more than 15 percent of the votes cast in that party's primary is entitled to receive a proportionate number of delegate votes equal to the proportionate number of votes the candidate received in the primary after excluding the number of votes cast for candidates of his party who each received less than 15 percent of the votes in that party's primary. The proportions of delegate vote shall be expressed as fractional delegate votes or the nearest whole number of delegate votes as the rules of the particular national party or convention may provide. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Editor's notes. — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.260. Delegates pledged.** A delegate selected under AS 15.25.250 must cast his vote to secure the nomination for the candidate to whom he is pledged until that candidate is nominated by the convention, receives less than 30 percent of the delegate votes for nomination by the convention, releases the delegates from the pledge, or until two convention nominating ballots have been taken. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Editor's notes. — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.270. No other elections on the same date.** The lieutenant governor may not schedule another state election on the date scheduled for the presidential party primary election. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Editor's notes. — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

**Sec. 15.25.280. Procedures for conduct of election.** The provisions of this title regarding the conduct of a general election govern the conduct of the presidential party primary election, except to the extent that the provisions of AS 15.25.220 — 15.25.280 are inconsistent with those provisions. (§ 2 ch 20 SLA 1980)

Editor's notes. — For repeal of this section, see note following article analysis.

### Chapter 30. National Elections.

#### Article

1. President (§§ 15.30.010—15.30.100)
2. United States Congress (§§ 15.30.110—15.30.120)

BILL SHEFFIELD  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

May 31, 1983

The Honorable Joe L. Hayes  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to repeal the statutes that provide for a presidential party primary election. By a section of the Act that enacted those statutes, they are scheduled to be repealed as of July 1, 1985 -- i.e., after their first application. The attached bill would repeal them immediately.

I believe that the supporters of the bill enacting those statutes had hoped that a presidential primary would expose presidential candidates to Alaska and thus enhance Alaska's exposure to the rest of the country. However, considering the time and expense involved in coming to Alaska, and considering that Alaska has so few delegates to the national party conventions, it seems rather unlikely that presidential candidates would invest much money or effort in an Alaska campaign. Moreover, Alaska's vast geographical area would prevent many of our people from having any more contact with the candidates than they do now. It simply does not appear that the people of Alaska would derive any benefit from the current statutes -- either in terms of electing the president or in terms of collateral effects.

I also believe that it would be far more important to fund \$100,000 in the Governor's Office to bring Congressmen to Alaska this year and next year to visit our state, to look firsthand at our resources and our needs. This would allow them to understand us better and to relate to our special problems. Also, I am sure that the two major political parties in Alaska will be inviting their respective primary candidates to visit Alaska. I, as Governor, will be a congenial host to both parties.

In addition, the early date set for this presidential primary (third Tuesday in April) increases the probability that Alaska's primary would result in requiring our delegates to support a candidate who has withdrawn by the time the national party conventions are held. Alaskans could well be wasting their time and effort.

Finally, the cost of conducting the presidential party primary election -- estimated at \$1,047,600 -- cannot be justified. At a time of declining revenues, such an election, with little direct benefit to Alaskans, is far too expensive. My proposed FY 84 budget does not include money for this purpose, and I now urge repeal of the relevant statutes.

Sincerely,



Bill Sheffield  
Governor

Introduced: 5/31/83  
Referred: State Affairs,  
Judiciary and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 430

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act repealing the statutes that require a presi-  
7 dential party primary election; and providing for an  
8 effective date."

9

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

10

\* Section 1. AS 15.13.011, AS 15.25.220 -- 15.25.280, and sec. 4, ch.

11

20, SLA 1980 are repealed.

12

\* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-

13

10.070(c).