

H B

2 4 7

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date referred: 4/30/87

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 5-14-87

The Finance Committee has considered HB 247

"An Act relating to the readability of certain election materials."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with CS HB 247 (JUD)  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published 4/24/87
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

Cel Adams  
Pat Kamelhot  
Ronald J. Jann  
John J. Jann  
Chas. K. Miller  
Mark B. Burr  
Steve J. Jann  
J. J. Jann  
Ray Wallis  
Jay Brown  
Michael Davis

**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cel Adams  
 Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: CSHB 247 (JUD)  
Publish Date: HOUSE 4/22/87

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

Agency Affected: Department of Law  
BRU: Legal Services

Title: "An Act relating to certain  
election materials."

Sponsor: Representative Davis

Components: Operations

Requestor: House State Affairs

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached analysis.

*Richard L. Pegues*

Prepared by: Richard I. Pegues, Director

Phone: 465-3672

Division: Administrative Services

Date: April 13, 1987

Approved by Commissioner: Grace Berg Schaible, Atty. Gen.

Date: April 13, 1987

Agency: Department of Law

Distribution (by preparer):

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

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

No. 1  
CSHB 247 JUD  
4/22/87

For Bill/Resolution No. CSHB 247(SA)

This bill amends AS 15.58 by adding a new section that provides a scoring methodology for the readability of the neutral summaries of ballot propositions that appear in the voter's pamphlet. Division of Elections and Department of Law staff responsible for preparing these summaries may have to hone their writing skills, but they will not require additional resources to implement this bill.

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: CSHB 247 (JUD)  
Publish Date: HOUSE 4/22/87

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: 4/13/87  
Title: An Act relating to the readability of certain election materials.  
Sponsor: Davis and Koponen  
Requestor: Representative Mike Davis

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: Legislative Council  
Components: Legal Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Pamela A. Stoops, Manager  
Division: Administrative Services  
Approved by: Warren W. Endicott  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone: 465-3850  
Date: 4/13/87  
Date: 4/13/87

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)  
Senate Secretary

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

No. 2

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: CSHB 247 (JUD)  
Publish Date: HOUSE 4/22/87

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

Agency Affected: Office of the Governor  
BRU: Division of Elections

Title: An Act relating to the readability  
of certain election materials"

Sponsor: Davis

Components: II

Requestor: Davis

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

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: *Je* Linda Edgeworth  
Division: Elections

Phone: 465-4611  
Date: 2-24-87

Approved by Commissioner: *Carol P. Kantel*  
Agency: Office of the Governor/ Division of Elections

Date: 4/13/87

**Distribution (by preparer):**

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

Original sponsors: Davis, Koponen  
and Boucher

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 247 (Judiciary)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 A BILL  
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the preparation of election  
7 propositions and materials."  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 \* Section 1. AS 15.45.180 is amended by adding a new subsection to  
10 read:  
11 (b) The proposition prepared under (a) of this section shall  
12 comply with AS 15.60.005 and shall be worded so that a "Yes" vote on  
13 the proposition is a vote to enact the proposed law.  
14 \* Sec. 2. AS 15.45.410 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
15 (b) The proposition prepared under (a) of this section shall  
16 comply with AS 15.60.005 and shall be worded so that a "Yes" vote on  
17 the proposition is a vote to reject the act referred.  
18 \* Sec. 3. AS 15.50.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
19 (b) The proposition prepared under (a) of this section shall  
20 comply with AS 15.60.005 and shall be worded so that a "Yes" vote on  
21 the proposition is a vote to adopt the proposed constitutional amend-  
22 ment.  
23 \* Sec. 4. AS 15.60 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
24 Sec. 15.60.005. READABILITY OF CERTAIN ELECTION MATERIALS. (a)  
25 The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition that is  
26 clear, concise, and easily readable. The form of each ballot proposi-  
27 tion shall be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the  
28 state is to prepare a ballot proposition that is scored at approxi-  
29 mately 65.

1           (b) Each neutral summary prepared for the voter's pamphlet shall  
2 be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the state is to  
3 prepare a neutral summary that is scored at approximately 65.

4           (c) A ballot proposition or neutral summary shall be scored  
5 using the following procedures:

6                 (1) disregard numbers;

7                 (2) multiply the average sentence length in words by 1.015;

8                 (3) multiply the average number of syllables for each 100  
9 words by .846;

10                (4) subtract the total of (2) and (3) from 206.835.

11           (d) A court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election  
12 for a failure to comply with (a) or (b) of this section.

Original sponsors: Davis, Koponen  
and Boucher

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 247 (State Affairs)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 A BILL  
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the readability of certain elec-  
7 tion materials."  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 \* Section 1. AS 15.58 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
10 Sec. 15.58.025. READABILITY OF CERTAIN ELECTION MATERIALS. (a)  
11 The form of each ballot proposition shall be scored under (c) of this  
12 section. The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition  
13 that is scored at 65 or more.  
14 (b) Each neutral summary prepared for the voter's pamphlet shall  
15 be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the state is to  
16 prepare a neutral summary that is scored at 65 or more.  
17 (c) A ballot proposition or neutral summary shall be scored  
18 using the following procedures:  
19 (1) disregard numbers;  
20 (2) multiply the average sentence length in words by 1.015;  
21 (3) multiply the average number of syllables for each 100  
22 words by .846;  
23 (4) subtract the total of (2) and (3) from 206.835.  
24 (d) Each ballot proposition shall contain language that clearly  
25 states that a "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of the initiative, refer-  
26 endum, or constitutional amendment under consideration.  
27 (e) A court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election  
28 for a failure to comply with (a) or (b) of this section.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DAVIS AND KOPONEN

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 247

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the readability of certain elec-  
7 tion materials."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 15.58 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 15.58.025. READABILITY OF CERTAIN ELECTION MATERIALS. (a)  
11 The form of each ballot proposition shall be scored under (c) of this  
12 section. The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition  
13 that is scored at 65 or more.

14 (b) Each neutral summary prepared for the voter's pamphlet shall  
15 be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the state is to  
16 prepare a neutral summary that is scored at 65 or more.

17 (c) A ballot proposition or neutral summary shall be scored  
18 using the following procedures:

19 (1) disregard numbers;

20 (2) multiply the average sentence length in words by 1.015;

21 (3) multiply the average number of syllables for each 100  
22 words by .846;

23 (4) subtract the total of (2) and (3) from 206.835.

24 (d) A court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election  
25 for a failure to comply with (a) or (b) of this section.