

HB

247

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

House Judiciary:

4-28-87

4-29-87

Secs. 15.57.010 — 15.57.060.

Repealed by § 232 ch 100 SLA 1980.

Cross references. — For present provisions, see AS 15.58.010 — 15.58.090.

Editor's notes. — The repealed chapter derived from § 2, ch. 76, SLA 1974; § 2,

ch. 10, SLA 1975; §§ 4 — 7, ch. 87, SLA 1975; §§ 27, 28, ch. 197, SLA 1975; §§ 23, 24, ch. 12, SLA 1980.

Chapter 58. Election Pamphlet.

Section

- 10. Election pamphlet
- 20. Contents of pamphlet
- 30. Material to be filed by candidate
- 40. Material to be filed by political parties
- 50. Information and recommendations on judicial officers

Section

- 60. Charges for space in pamphlet
- 70. Organization of material
- 80. Distribution
- 90. Delegation by lieutenant governor

Collateral references. — 26 Am. Jur. 2d, Elections, §§ 193-199.

29 C.J.S., Elections, §§ 117, 118(1).

Doctrine of privilege or fair comment as applicable to misstatements of fact in publication (or oral communication) relating to public officer or candidate for office. 110 ALR 412; 150 ALR 358.

Statement regarding cost of proposed public improvement in ballot for special election in that regard. 117 ALR 892.

Validity of special election as affected by publication or dissemination of matter or information, extrinsic to the question as submitted, regarding nature or effect of the proposal. 122 ALR 1142.

Sec. 15.58.010. Election pamphlet. Before each state general election, the lieutenant governor shall prepare, publish and mail an election pamphlet to every registered voter. The pamphlet shall be prepared on a regional basis as determined by the lieutenant governor. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.020. Contents of pamphlet. Each election pamphlet shall contain

- (1) photographs and campaign statements submitted by eligible candidates for elective office in the region;
- (2) information and recommendations filed under AS 15.58.050 on judicial officers subject to a retention election in the region;
- (3) a map of the election district or districts of the region;
- (4) sample ballots for election districts of the region;
- (5) an absentee ballot application;
- (6) for each ballot proposition submitted to the voters by initiative or referendum petition or by the legislature,
 - (A) the full text of the proposition specifying constitutional or statutory provisions proposed to be affected;

(B) the ballot title and the summary of the proposition prepared by the director or by the lieutenant governor;

* (C) a neutral summary of the proposition prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency;

(D) statements submitted which advocate voter approval or rejection of the proposition not to exceed 500 words;

(7) for each bond question, a statement of the scope of each project as it appears in the Bond Authorization Act;

(8) a maximum of two pages of material submitted by each political party;

(9) additional information on voting procedures that the lieutenant governor considers necessary. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.030. Material to be filed by candidate. (a) No later than 75 days before the state general election, candidates for the offices of the United States President and Vice-President may file with the lieutenant governor photographs and statements advocating their candidacy.

(b) No later than 75 days before the state general election, a candidate for the office of United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, justice or judge, state senator, or state representative may file with the lieutenant governor a photograph and a statement advocating his candidacy.

(c) Each candidate for an office designated under (a) or (b) of this section is allowed one page of space in the pamphlet for a photograph and statement.

(d) Pages on which candidates' photographs or statements appear must be clearly identified with the words "paid for by the candidate."

(e) A candidate's statement must be typewritten and is limited to a position statement of 250 words or less and a biographical statement of 150 words or less.

(f) A candidate's photograph must be a 5" x 7" black and white glossy print taken within the past five years. The photograph must be limited to the head, neck and shoulders of the candidate. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.040. Material to be filed by political parties. (a) No later than 75 days before the state general election, a political party may file with the lieutenant governor a maximum of two pages of material.

(b) Each page purchased must be clearly identified with the words "paid for by" followed by the name of the political party, the name of the state chairman of the party, and the name of the party treasurer. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.050. Information and recommendations on judicial officers. No later than 75 days before the state general election, the judicial council shall file with the lieutenant governor a statement

including information about each supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, superior court judge, and district court judge who will be subject to a retention election. The statement shall reflect the evaluation of each justice or judge conducted by the judicial council according to law. A statement may not exceed 600 words. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.060. Charges for space in pamphlet. (a) Each general election candidate shall pay to the lieutenant governor at the time of filing material under this chapter the following:

(1) President or Vice-President of the United States, United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, supreme court justice and court of appeals judge, \$150 each;

(2) superior court judge, district court judge, \$75 each;

(3) state senator, and state representative, \$50 each.

(b) The state chairman or executive committee of a political party shall pay to the lieutenant governor at the time of filing material under this chapter \$300 for each page purchased.

(c) There is no charge for statements and recommendations submitted by the judicial council or for statements advocating approval or rejection of a proposition submitted to the voters for approval. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.070. Organization of material. Material in the election pamphlet shall be organized to the extent possible in the same manner and form in which it will appear on the ballot. The decision of the lieutenant governor on the form of material is final. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Sec. 15.58.080. Distribution. (a) Not less than 30 days before the general election, the lieutenant governor shall mail to every registered voter one copy of the pamphlet prepared for the region in which the voter resides. Additional pamphlets may be obtained from the director, the office of the lieutenant governor, and the area election offices.

(b) The state library shall make a recording of the appropriate regional pamphlet available to a blind voter without cost. The lieutenant governor shall assist with the preparation of recording each regional pamphlet. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Exception to time requirement for 1978 election. — See *Hammond v. Hickel*, Sup. Ct. Order (File Nos. 4281, 4282, 4283, 4284, 4285, 4291), 588 P.2d 256 (1978), cert. denied, 441 U.S. 907, 99 S. Ct. 1998, 60 L. Ed. 2d 376 (1979), decided under former AS 15.57.050.

Sec. 15.58.090. Delegation by lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor may delegate the duties imposed on him by this chapter to the director. (§ 206 ch 100 SLA 1980)

FLESCH FORMULA

The Flesch formula is based to compute scores for "reading ease" and "human interest". Although this method has been criticized, no better system seems to have been developed to this time for quick evaluation of adult reading materials. Flesch has a chart inside the cover of his book, The Art of Readable Writing, which is a short-cut to determining readability and will eliminate the need to compute the formula. This chart can be used in place of steps 6 and 7 in the procedure outlined below. For those who do not have access to his book, the procedure he follows to determine readability is:

1. Count the words in the article (mark each 50th word).
2. Count the sentences.
3. Count the syllables in the article.
4. Divide the number of words by the number of sentences to obtain the average sentence length.
5. Divide the number of syllables by the number of words and multiply by 100 to obtain the average number of syllables per 100 words.
6. Multiply the average sentence length in words by 1.015.
7. Multiply the average number of syllables per 100 words by .846, then add the totals of steps 6 and 7, then subtract the total from 206.835 to obtain the readability score for the article.
8. Convert the readability score to reading ability level given below to determine usability.

<i>Description of Style</i>	<i>Average Sentence Length</i>	<i>Average No. of Syll. per 100 Wds.</i>	<i>Reading Ease Score.</i>	<i>Estimated Reading Grade</i>
Very Easy	8 or less	123 or less	90 to 100	5th grade
Easy	11	131	80 to 90	6th grade
Fairly Easy	14	139	70 to 80	7th grade
Standard	17	147	60 to 70	8th and 9th grade
Fairly Difficult	21	155	50 to 60	10th to 12th grade (high school)
Difficult	25	167	30 to 50	13th to 16th grade (college)
Very Difficult	29 or more	192 or more	0 to 30	college graduate

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 3

Advisory Vote on Longevity Bonus Annuity Program Ch. 99 SLA 85 (SB56)

BALLOT LANGUAGE

(As it will appear on the November 4, 1986, General Election Ballot)

The Fourteenth Alaska State Legislature considered two alternatives to the present longevity bonus program. Both were adopted into law, but neither will take effect unless the legislature chooses one of them. The legislature has asked for an advisory vote of the public on the annuity option which is described below.

The annuity option provides that every individual who reaches age 65 by January 1, 1988, including those already receiving the bonus, would receive a longevity bonus payment of \$250 per month. In addition, a person under age 65 on January 1, 1988, could participate in an optional annuity program by depositing all or part of his or her permanent fund dividends in an account held by the state. Upon reaching age 65, a person would receive a monthly payment in an amount determined by how much was contributed to the account. The annuity payments would be supplemented with declining longevity bonus payments paid for with general funds until the annuity accounts were large enough to provide monthly payments of \$250 a month.

The second option provides that every individual who is 65 years old by January 1, 1988, including those already receiving the bonus, will receive a longevity bonus payment of \$250 per month, but that anybody younger than age 65 by January 1, 1988, would not be eligible for benefits.

Should the legislature adopt the annuity option? YES NO

This proposition scored 30.3 under the formula contained in HB 247.

Procedures:

- (1) disregarded numbers
- (2) counted 8 sentences and 205 words
average sentence length, 25.6 words
 $25.6 \times 1.015 = 26.00$
- (3) counted 365 syllables in 205 words
 $365/205 = 178/100$
 $178 \times .846 = 150.58$
- (4) $26 + 150.58 = 176.58$
 $206.835 - 176.58 = 30.25$

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

(Ch. 9 SLA 85 CCSSB 56)

This question is advisory to the legislature as to whether an annuity program should be adopted to replace the longevity bonus program.

Under the proposed program, a person could elect to receive his or her permanent fund dividend in cash, as a credit in an annuity account, or a combination of the two. A person who is 65 years old on or before January 1, 1988, or persons with certain debts could only receive the dividend in cash.

Upon reaching the age of 65, a person with credit in an annuity account would receive an annuity in the form of a monthly payment based upon the principal and accrued interest in the person's annuity account. If a person dies before age 65, a lump sum payment could be made to a designated beneficiary or to the decedent's estate.

Persons 65 years of age on or before January 1, 1988, who otherwise qualify would continue to receive a monthly longevity bonus payment of \$250. Otherwise, the monthly longevity bonus payment would be equal to \$250 minus the maximum possible straight life annuity for a person 65 years of age under the annuity program.

If the annuity program is rejected, the legislature will consider limiting the existing longevity bonus program to people who are 65 years of age on or before January 1, 1988.

VOTES CAST BY MEMBERS OF THE 14TH ALASKA LEGISLATURE ON FINAL PASSAGE

House:	Yeas	30
	Nays	10
	Absent or Not Voting	0
Senate:	Yeas	19
	Nays	0
	Absent or Not Voting	1

1980 U.S. Census of Alaska

Table 66. Educational Characteristics: 1980

(Data are estimates based on a sample; see Introduction. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For definitions of terms, see appendices A and B)

**The State
Urban and Rural and Size of Place
Inside and Outside SMSA's**

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND TYPE OF SCHOOL

	The State	Urban					Rural		Rural farm	Inside SMSA's	Outside SMSA's	
		Total	Inside urbanized areas			Outside urbanized areas		Total				Floors of 1,000 to 2,500
			Total	Central cities	Urban fringe	Places of 10,000 or more	Places of 2,500 to 10,000					
Persons 3 years old and over enrolled in school	113 692	72 104	47 682	47 682	-	10 854	13 548	41 588	8 034	221	48 740	64 952
Nursery school	5 195	3 324	2 111	2 111	-	519	694	1 871	378	14	2 160	3 035
Public	3 137	1 701	980	980	-	277	444	1 436	261	6	987	2 150
Church-related	647	573	409	409	-	68	96	74	32	-	415	232
Other private	1 411	1 050	722	722	-	174	154	361	85	8	758	653
Kindergarten	7 007	4 348	2 746	2 746	-	750	872	2 659	532	23	2 765	4 242
Public	6 529	4 051	2 515	2 515	-	690	846	2 478	481	18	2 534	3 995
Church-related	236	177	140	140	-	16	21	59	24	-	140	96
Other private	242	120	91	91	-	24	5	122	27	5	91	151
Elementary (1 to 8 years)	55 520	33 700	22 690	22 690	-	4 995	6 015	21 820	4 136	82	23 222	32 298
Public	53 948	32 778	22 055	22 055	-	4 826	5 897	21 170	4 089	77	22 567	31 381
Church-related	1 229	736	479	479	-	154	103	493	37	5	493	736
Other private	343	186	156	156	-	15	15	157	10	-	162	181
High school (11 to 14 years)	27 192	16 458	10 976	10 976	-	2 463	3 019	10 734	2 182	79	11 230	15 962
Public	26 410	15 999	10 653	10 653	-	2 346	3 000	10 411	2 159	68	10 907	15 503
Church-related	542	330	213	213	-	104	13	212	12	11	213	329
Other private	240	129	110	110	-	13	6	111	11	-	110	130
College	18 778	14 274	9 159	9 159	-	2 147	2 968	4 504	806	23	9 363	9 415
Public	17 654	13 452	8 526	8 526	-	2 041	2 885	4 202	761	23	8 730	8 924

Persons 3 years old and over enrolled in school	113 692	72 104	47 682	47 682	-	10 854	13 548	41 588	8 034	221	48 740	64 952
3 and 4 years old	4 454	2 761	1 736	1 736	-	457	568	1 693	302	14	1 778	2 676
5 and 6 years old	11 810	7 314	4 388	4 388	-	1 192	1 434	4 496	959	16	4 750	7 060
7 to 13 years old	47 292	29 193	19 752	19 752	-	4 325	5 116	18 099	3 504	89	20 204	27 088
14 and 15 years old	13 785	8 132	5 375	5 375	-	1 222	1 535	5 633	1 142	38	5 505	8 280
16 and 17 years old	13 357	8 173	5 489	5 489	-	1 208	1 476	5 184	1 009	34	5 601	7 756
18 and 19 years old	5 431	3 522	2 185	2 185	-	382	955	1 909	347	8	2 234	3 197
20 and 21 years old	2 424	1 902	1 157	1 157	-	191	554	522	91	6	1 163	1 261
22 to 24 years old	2 497	1 975	1 177	1 177	-	266	532	522	93	-	1 200	1 297
25 to 34 years old	7 485	5 450	3 481	3 481	-	1 046	923	2 035	350	7	3 570	3 915
35 years old and over	5 157	3 682	2 642	2 642	-	565	475	1 475	237	9	2 735	2 422

Percent enrolled in school—												
3 and 4 years old	31.2	30.7	29.4	29.4	-	31.5	34.8	32.1	28.2	41.2	29.5	32.5
5 and 6 years old	85.0	86.2	84.2	84.2	-	87.8	91.8	83.2	83.4	69.6	84.2	85.5
7 to 13 years old	97.6	97.8	97.8	97.8	-	98.5	97.4	97.3	97.6	100.0	97.8	97.5
14 and 15 years old	96.9	97.6	97.1	97.1	-	98.3	98.5	95.9	97.7	88.4	96.9	96.8
16 and 17 years old	87.3	87.2	87.1	87.1	-	84.1	90.2	85.9	81.2	85.0	87.2	87.4
18 and 19 years old	37.5	36.7	35.5	35.5	-	29.2	44.5	39.0	29.6	50.0	35.6	38.9
20 and 21 years old	14.2	15.8	15.9	15.9	-	8.9	20.8	10.4	6.8	33.3	15.8	13.0
22 to 24 years old	8.9	10.1	9.2	9.2	-	8.4	15.1	6.0	4.4	-	9.2	8.6
25 to 34 years old	8.2	9.1	8.7	8.7	-	10.6	8.9	6.6	5.3	6.4	8.7	7.8

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND LABOR FORCE STATUS												
Persons 16 to 19 years old	29 792	18 976	12 452	12 452	-	2 743	3 781	10 816	2 417	54	12 699	17 093
Armed forces	1 674	1 444	729	729	-	214	501	230	133	-	729	945
Civilian, enrolled in school	18 670	11 599	7 643	7 643	-	1 572	2 384	7 071	1 345	42	7 804	10 856
Employed	6 023	4 239	2 756	2 756	-	678	805	1 784	474	16	2 803	3 220
Unemployed	1 222	800	475	475	-	138	187	422	49	-	482	740
Not in labor force	11 425	6 560	4 412	4 412	-	756	1 392	4 865	822	26	4 519	6 906
Civilian, not enrolled in school	9 448	5 933	4 080	4 080	-	957	896	3 515	939	14	4 166	5 282
High school graduates	5 830	3 789	2 608	2 608	-	673	508	2 041	598	8	2 654	3 176
Employed	3 587	2 557	1 828	1 828	-	427	302	1 030	341	8	1 856	1 731
Unemployed	670	428	260	260	-	109	59	242	59	-	267	403
Not in labor force	1 573	804	520	520	-	137	147	769	198	-	531	1 042
Not high school graduates	3 618	2 144	1 472	1 472	-	284	388	1 474	341	6	1 512	2 106
Employed	1 241	785	543	543	-	108	134	456	118	5	550	691
Unemployed	653	452	304	304	-	73	75	201	67	1	313	340
Not in labor force	1 724	907	625	625	-	103	179	817	156	-	649	1 075

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Males, 25 years old and over	113 432	71 766	46 974	46 974	-	12 116	12 676	41 666	8 510	273	48 324	65 108
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	3 554	836	389	389	-	186	261	2 718	280	5	389	3 165
5 to 7 years	2 852	1 189	620	620	-	277	292	1 663	256	4	624	2 228
8 years	3 842	1 601	807	807	-	287	507	2 241	497	36	823	3 019
High school: 1 to 3 years	9 211	5 350	3 302	3 302	-	844	1 204	3 861	817	6	3 367	5 844
4 years	42 307	26 949	17 668	17 668	-	4 435	4 846	15 358	3 271	101	18 016	24 291
College: 1 to 3 years	25 382	17 163	11 565	11 565	-	2 662	2 936	8 219	1 785	58	12 049	13 333
4 years	12 469	9 093	6 341	6 341	-	1 478	1 274	3 376	801	27	6 503	5 966
5 or more years	13 815	9 585	6 282	6 282	-	1 947	1 356	4 230	803	36	6 553	7 262
Percent high school graduates	82.8	87.5	89.1	89.1	-	86.8	82.1	74.8	78.3	81.3	89.2	78.1

Females, 25 years old and over	97 965	65 131	43 632	43 632	-	10 937	10 562	32 834	7 118	222	44 696	53 269
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	3 041	798	431	431	-	184	183	2 243	266	2	454	2 587
5 to 7 years	2 646	1 070	662	662	-	138	270	1 576	296	12	662	1 984
8 years	3 078	1 573	912	912	-	287	374	1 505	349	27	928	2 150
High school: 1 to 3 years	8 717	5 382	3 510	3 510	-	835	1 037	3 335	819	11	3 592	5 125
4 years	39 873	27 392	18 570	18 570	-	4 476	4 546	12 281	2 791	80	18 854	21 019
College: 1 to 3 years	22 340	15 945	10 984	10 984	-	2 559	2 402	6 395	1 542	46	11 278	11 062
4 years	10 221	7 413	5 038	5 038	-	1 364	1 011	2 808	596	14	5 230	4 991
5 or more years	8 049	5 358	3 525	3 525	-	1 094	739	2 691	459	30	3 698	4 351
Percent high school graduates	82.2	86.5	87.4	87.4	-	86.8	82.4	73.6	75.7	76.6	87.4	77.8

Persons 25 years old and over	211 397	136 897	90 606	90 606	-	23 053	23 238	74 500	15 628	495	93 020	118 377
Percent: Less than 5 years of elementary school	3.1	1.2	0.9	0.9	-	1.6	1.9	6.7	3.5	1.4	0.9	4.9
High school graduates	82.5	87.0	88.3	88.3	-	86.8	82.2	74.3	77.1	79.2	88.3	78.0
4 or more years of college	21.1	23.0	23.4	23.4	-	25.5	18.8	17.6	17.0	21.6	23.6	19.1
Median years of school completed	12.8	12.9	13.0	13.0	-	13.0	12.8	12.7	12.7	12.8	13.0	12.7

Persons 18 to 24 years old	59 654	41 116	26 165	26 165	-	6 424	8 327	18 538	4 629	69	26 610	33 044
Percent: High school graduates	79.2	82.5	82.5	82.5	-	83.4	81.7	71.9	78.1	89.9	82.4	76.7
4 or more years of college	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	-	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.4	13.9	3.3	3.6

Males, 18 to 24 years old
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STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907 465 3800


LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

M E M O R A N D U M

April 16, 1987

SUBJECT: Comprehension by the voter of election
propositions and materials
[CSHB 247(State Affairs)]

TO: Representative Fran Ulmer
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Richard A. Bradley
Legislative Counsel 

I have prepared a committee substitute responsive to the request from Dennis Burns.

But it could not be done as simply as the League of Women Voters suggested.

The provisions of HB 247 [as introduced] address only the preparation of the election pamphlet; the material suggested by the League addresses the format of the propositions prepared for various ballot propositions [AS 15.60.010(23)] or ballot questions [AS 15.60.010(26)] as they actually go on the ballot.

As such, other portions of the election code that direct the preparation of these provisions were more properly amended.

And since it was not "readability" that was the issue any more, I have suggested that the title be broadened.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

RAB:mkr
m11/036

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA

P O BOX AA
JUNEAU 99811
(907) 465-3520

M E M O R A N D U M

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TO: Grace Schaible
Attorney General
Department of Law

FROM: Stephen McAlpine
Lieutenant Governor

DATE: March 4, 1987

SUBJECT: Attached Proposed Legislation

Attached please find information given to me by the League of Women Voters. I am in favor of legislation similar to this and would appreciate your review of their proposal. It is my understanding that this legislation will be introduced this session. However, if it is not introduced or does not pass the Legislature, I would like to see this become the policy for ballot propositions, etc. for the Division of Elections.

Attachment

cc: Sandi Stout, Division of Elections



February 18, 1987

Representative Mike Davis
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Davis:

This letter is a follow-up to our conversation at the League of Women Voters' luncheon in December when we were discussing the ballot language issue. After much discussion, you indicated interest in working with league in formulating legislation that would encourage(force) the legislature/Dept. of Law to have the language of ballot propositions at a grade level and readability level that could be understood by at least the average voter in Alaska. We continue to get so much public demand for improvement in the readability of the ballot propositions that we are eager to see progress on this matter.

League first became aware of this issue three years ago when the Literacy Council sent a representative to the state league board to make us aware of the seriousness of this issue. They brought analyses of 1976 ballot propositions that showed that the grade level of the propositions was in the range of 12th grade through college graduate level. I am enclosing copies of these analyses. A Literacy Council representative is analyzing the 1986 state propositions now, and I hope to have those with me when I am in Juneau next week. From trying to interpret the ballot propositions and the neutral summaries given in the Election Pamphlet to the public, I feel certain that the 1986 propositions were on a readability level far above the average Alaskan reader.

Once we became aware of the issue, we started working with the Division of Elections Office in Juneau and the Dept. of Law to see what be done. We spent several months of the summer and fall of 1986 working with Linda Edgeworth of Division of Elections and Jim Baldwin of Dept. of Law. Linda sent us the ballot propositions as soon as they were available and Literacy Council volunteers reworded the propositions in simplified language using simple Literacy Council criteria to do so. We had hoped that the Division of Elections would

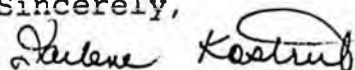
put these simplified versions in the Official Election Pamphlet with a note that they had been supplied by the League of Women Voters and the Literacy Council. After our spending months on this, the Division of Elections decided at the last minute that they would not include our simplified versions. The reason they gave us was that if they included our simplified versions, they would have to include other versions given by other groups. We were very frustrated because the official language in the propositions and the neutral summaries included in the Official Election Pamphlet were not easily understandable by the general public.

I feel that your suggestion that some type of legislation address this issue is our best hope. The aim of the legislation would be to insure that all ballot propositions be worded so that they are easily read and understood by the average Alaskan voter. There is no precise statistic to tell us the reading level of the average voter, but from talks with the Literacy Council, we are agreed that an eighth grade reading level would be desirable for ballot language. An eleventh grade level is mentioned in the Literacy Council sheet as that of the average adult, but only 62% of the population can read at the eleventh grade level. In Alaska where we are having difficulty with the Voting Rights Act because of so many Natives for whom English is a second language. I think that we need to do all we can to make ballot language on a level understood by these people also.

Several of us from the state league board will be meeting with you on Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m. in your office, and we will want to discuss this issue with you then. I will have with me analyses of the 1986 ballot proposition language. My concern is the filing deadline for legislation. Is there still a possibility that we could have legislation formulated and meet the March deadline?

If you have questions or could suggest other material that would be helpful for me to bring to Juneau on March 2, please contact me before I leave for Juneau on Feb. 27. Thanks for your interest and concern in this area. We look forward to talking with you on March 2.

Sincerely,



Darlene Kostrub
Vice-President
4209 York Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
479-7535



April 1987

Representatives Mike Davis and Niilo Koponen have introduced House Bill 247 which would require ballot propositions and neutral summaries in voter's pamphlets to be worded on an eighth grade reading level or lower.

The Fairbanks League of Women Voters and the Literacy Council have been working for about three years on trying to ensure that these propositions and summaries are easier to read. Currently there are no standards for readability being used by the state, with the result that ballot propositions and neutral summaries are usually worded on a 12th grade through college graduate level.

According to the Literacy Council only 62% of the population can read at the 11th grade level. For many Alaskans English is a second language.

The standard proposed in HB 247 has been adopted in many states. It would require little extra staff time, and the result is that people would understand exactly what they were voting on.

The League of Women Voters of Alaska is pleased that the Fairbanks representatives have taken this step to ensure an informed voting population. We urge you to vote in favor of this bill which is so important to maintenance of a truly democratic process.



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Mike Davis

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4930/4941

Interim Office:
P.O. Box 81435
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Rep. Mike Davis
DATE: April 27, 1987
RE: CSHB 247 (State Affairs)

HB 247(SA) aims to ensure that all ballot propositions and election pamphlet summaries are worded so they can be easily read by the average Alaskan.

There are no precise statistics on the reading ability of Alaskan adults. Nationally, 14% of adults are functionally illiterate, reading below the fourth grade level. According to the 1980 U.S. census, 18% of Alaskans over 24 have not graduated from high school or received a G.E.D. Many who do graduate lack strong reading skills. However, Alaska's ballot propositions are frequently written in college level English.

The readability formula used in this bill is the Flesch test. This test is used by several states with insurance policy readability laws, and in Maine's election law. A Flesch score of 65 approximately corresponds to an eighth grade reading level. As the score increases, the difficulty of the reading material decreases.

CSHB 247(SA) further requires that each ballot proposition contain language clearly stating that a "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment under consideration. This provision is intended to prevent a situation in which a "yes" vote would be required to maintain the status quo.

Finally, CSHB 247(SA) states that a court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election for failing to comply with the legislation. The intent of this bill is to encourage participation in elections, and to assist informed decision-making by voters. CSHB 247(SA) would not increase the likelihood of lawsuits, further complicating the election process.

The bill would not influence the content of a referendum, initiative, or constitutional amendment. It would affect only the abbreviated form appearing on the ballot, and the neutral summary in the election pamphlet. The responsibility for preparing propositions and summaries is clearly assigned in current statute, and would remain unchanged.

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.
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5-0743X
Bradley
4/28/87

Original sponsors: Davis and Koponen

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 CS FOR 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 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
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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. *ix*

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 form of each ballot proposition shall be scored under (c) of this
26 section. The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition
27 that is scored at 65 or more. *(clear, concise, and easily readable, and that is*

28 (b) Each ~~neutral summary prepared for the voter's pamphlet~~ shall
29 be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the state is to

1 prepare a neutral summary that is scored at 65 or more.

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

4 (1) disregard numbers;

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

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

8 (4) subtract the total of (2) and (3) from 206.335.

9 (d) A court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election
10 for a failure to comply with (a) or (b) of this section.
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MEMORANDUM
TO: SUND
FROM: HARTLE
5/15/87

JH

RE: HB 247 - Preparation of election propositions and materials.

Judiciary CS:

Rewrote section 4 to make it clear that the primary policy is to have a ballot proposition that is clear, concise, and easily readable, and that the score on the Flesche test is of secondary concern. (Something could score 99 on the Flesche test and still be garbage...)

5-0743B
Bradley
4/16/87

Original sponsors: Davis and Koponen

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 comprehension by the voter of
7 election 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 be
12 worded so that a "Yes" vote on the proposition is a vote to enact the
13 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 be
16 worded so that a "Yes" vote on the proposition is a vote to reject the
17 act referred. *Referendum*

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 be
20 worded so that a "Yes" vote on the proposition is a vote to adopt the
21 proposed constitutional amendment.

22 * Sec. 4. AS 15.58 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

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

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

- 3 (1) disregard numbers;
4 (2) multiply the average sentence length in words by 1.015;
5 (3) multiply the average number of syllables for each 100
6 words by .846;
7 (4) subtract the total of (2) and (3) from 206.835.

8 (d) A court may not enjoin the conduct or results of an election
9 for a failure to comply with (a) or (b) of this section.
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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX K—STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3600

April 28, 1967

Honorable John Sund, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Room 122, Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: CSHB 247(SA) -- readability
of election materials

Dear Representative Sund:

HB 247 and CSHB 247(SA) seek to make certain election materials more "readable." The Department of Law believes that the policy is excellent, but that it is inadvisable to set in the statutes, as the bill does, a readability formula with a specific score that must be attained.

The bill itself is clear and well-written. It is very readable. But it does not, itself, attain the score that it would establish for election materials. My calculations, possibly in error but probably not too far off, give the bill a score of 52.263. My point in mentioning this is not to criticize the bill or the test set out in it, but to illustrate the fact that a clear and well-written ballot proposition could still be unacceptable if this bill were to pass. And it goes without saying that a piece of writing could attain the target score of 65, with short sentences and short words, but still be pure gibberish.

As Dr. Rudolph Flesch, the creator of the formula in this bill (hence, the "Flesch test") stated in the preface to his The Art of Plain Talk (Harper & Row, publishers, 1946):

[the book's] main feature is, of course, the formula. I almost wish it were not. Some readers, I am afraid, will expect a magic formula for good writing and will be disappointed with my simple yardstick. Others, with a passion for accuracy, will wallow in the little rules and computations but lose sight of the principles of plain English. What I hope for are readers who won't take the formula too seriously and won't expect from it more than a rough estimate. [Emphasis added.]

Granted the bill includes, in CSHB 247(SA)'s AS 15.58--025(e), a protection against enjoining the conduct or results of

an election for failure to comply with the formula. However, that very protection provides something of an inconsistency in the bill. The Department of Law would recommend that the laudatory policy of the bill be expressed in less compulsory language. For example, subsec. (a) could be reworded to read as follows:

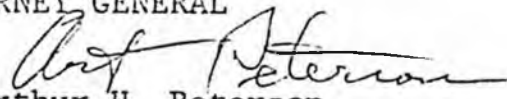
The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition that is clear, concise, and easily readable. In preparing each ballot proposition, the formula set out in (c) of this section shall be considered, with a score of 65 or more being the target.

A similar rewording should then be done for subsec. (b). The objective is to convey the policy without imposing a requirement of slavish adherence to a formula that will not itself guarantee good, clear, easily understood writing in election materials. This wording is offered as something of a compromise. A statement of the policy, without any reference to the Flesch test formula, would actually be preferable.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.

Very truly yours,

GRACE BERG SCHAIBLE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 
Arthur H. Peterson
Assistant Attorney General

AHP:md

cc: Hon. Mike Davis
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature

Hon. Steven McAlpine
Lieutenant Governor

George Sullivan
Legislative Liaison
Governor's Office

Sec. 15.45.150. Review of petition. Within not more than 60 days of the date the petition was filed, the lieutenant governor shall review the petition and shall notify the initiative committee whether the petition was properly or improperly filed, and at which election the proposition shall be placed on the ballot. (§ 9.15 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Sec. 15.45.160. Bases for determining the petition was improperly filed. The lieutenant governor shall notify the committee that the petition was improperly filed if he determines (1) that there is an insufficient number of qualified subscribers, or (2) that the subscribers were not resident in at least two-thirds of the election districts of the state. (§ 9.16 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Sec. 15.45.170. Submission of supplementary petition. Upon receipt of notice that the filing of the petition was improper, the initiative committee may amend and correct the petition by circulating and filing a supplementary petition within 30 days of the date that notice was given. (§ 9.17 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Initiative



Sec. 15.45.180. Preparation of ballot title and proposition. If the petition is properly filed, the lieutenant governor, with the assistance of the attorney general, shall prepare a ballot title and proposition. The ballot title shall, in not more than six words, indicate the general subject of the proposition. The proposition shall, in not more than 100 words, give a true and impartial summary of the proposed law. (§ 9.18 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Sec. 15.45.190. Placing proposition on ballot. The lieutenant governor shall direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after (1) the petition and any supplementary petition have been filed, (2) a legislative session has convened and adjourned, and (3) a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session. (§ 9.19 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 35 ch 69 SLA 1970; am § 174 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment inserted "direct the director to" near the beginning of the section.

report on ch. 69, SLA 1970 (HB 564), see 1970 House Journal Supplement No. 2, p. 7.

Legislative history reports. — For

Sec. 15.45.200. Display of proposed law. The director shall provide each election board with 10 copies of the proposed law being initiated, and the election board shall display three copies of the proposed law in a conspicuous place in the room where the election is held. (§ 9.20 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 175 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "director" for

"lieutenant governor" at the beginning of the section.

* **Sec. 15.45.410. Preparation of ballot title and proposition.** The lieutenant governor, with the assistance of the attorney general, shall prepare a ballot title and proposition if he determines that the petition is properly filed. The ballot title shall, in not more than six words, indicate the general subject area of the act. The proposition shall, in not more than 100 words, give a true and impartial summary of the act being referred. (§ 9.47 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Sec. 15.45.420. Placing proposition on ballot. The lieutenant governor shall direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot for the first statewide general, special, or primary election held more than 180 days after adjournment of the legislative session at which the act was passed. (§ 9.48 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 36 ch 69 SLA 1970; am § 180 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment inserted "direct the director to" near the beginning of the section. report on ch. 69, SLA 1970 (HB 564), see 1970 House Journal Supplement No. 2, p. 7.

Legislative history reports. — For

Sec. 15.45.430. Display of act being referred. The director shall provide each election board with 10 copies of the act being referred, and the election board shall display three copies of the act in a conspicuous place in the room where the election is held. (§ 9.49 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 181 ch 100 SLA 1980)

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

Sec. 15.45.440. Rejection of act. If a majority of the votes cast on the referendum proposition favor the rejection of the act referred, the act is rejected, and the lieutenant governor shall so certify. The act rejected by referendum is void 30 days after certification. (§ 9.50 ch 83 SLA 1960)

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Section adopts language of Constitution. — This section adopted almost verbatim the language of Alaska Constitution, art. XI, § 6, for establishing the time when an act rejected by referendum shall become void. *Walters v. Cease*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 182 (File No. 447), 388 P.2d 263, aff'd, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 182, 394 P.2d 670 (1964).

Sec. 15.45.450. Insufficiency of application or petition. No referendum submitted to the voters shall be held void because of the insufficiency of the application or petition by which the submission was procured. (§ 9.51 ch 83 SLA 1960)

Sec. 15.45.460. Judicial review. Any person aggrieved by any determination made by the lieutenant governor under AS 15.45.250 — 15.45.450 may bring an action in the superior court to have the deter-

bring an action in the superior court to have the determination reviewed within 30 days of the date on which notice of determination was given. (§ 9.96 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 199 ch 100 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "director under AS 15.45.470 — 15.45.710" for "lieutenant governor" near the beginning of the section, inserted "in the superior court" near

the middle of the section, and deleted "by any appropriate remedy in the superior court" following "was given" at end of the section.

Chapter 50. Constitutional Amendments and Conventions.

Article

1. Constitutional Amendments (§§ 15.50.010 — 15.50.060)
2. Constitutional Conventions (§§ 15.50.070 — 15.50.100)
3. Delegation by Lieutenant Governor (§ 15.50.110)

Article 1. Constitutional Amendments.

Section

10. Preparation of proposition for constitutional amendment
20. Description of ballot title and proposition
25. Objection to proposed ballot title and proposition

Section

27. Judicial review.
30. Placing proposition on ballot
40. Display of resolution
50. Certification of vote
60. Effective date

Collateral references. — 16 Am. Jur. 2d, Constitutional Law, §§ 18, 29-57; 25 Am. Jur. 2d, Elections, §§ 185-192.

16 C.J.S., Constitutional Law, §§ 7-11; 29 C.J.S., Elections, § 170.

Number of amendments that may be submitted under an initiative and referendum clause. 62 ALR 1350.

Proposition submitted to people as covering one or more than one proposed constitutional amendment. 94 ALR 1510.

Basis for computing majority essential to the adoption of a constitutional or other special proposition submitted to voters. 131 ALR 1382.

*

Sec. 15.50.010. Preparation of proposition for constitutional amendment. The lieutenant governor shall prepare a proposed ballot title and proposition for each amendment to the state constitution proposed by the legislature or by a constitutional convention. Each amendment shall be confined to one subject. Within 30 days of the date of adjournment of a legislative session or of the date of adjournment of a constitutional convention, the lieutenant governor shall provide one copy of the proposed ballot title and proposition for each amendment to each member of the legislature and shall make copies available to the public. (§ 10.01 ch 83 SLA 1960; am § 1 ch 99 SLA 1978)

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX K—STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3600

April 28, 1987

Honorable John Sund, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Room 122, Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: CSHB 247(SA) -- readability
of election materials

Dear Representative Sund:

HB 247 and CSHB 247(SA) seek to make certain election materials more "readable." The Department of Law believes that the policy is excellent, but that it is inadvisable to set in the statutes, as the bill does, a readability formula with a specific score that must be attained.

The bill itself is clear and well-written. It is very readable. But it does not, itself, attain the score that it would establish for election materials. My calculations, possibly in error but probably not too far off, give the bill a score of 52.263. My point in mentioning this is not to criticize the bill or the test set out in it, but to illustrate the fact that a clear and well-written ballot proposition could still be unacceptable if this bill were to pass. And it goes without saying that a piece of writing could attain the target score of 65, with short sentences and short words, but still be pure gibberish.

As Dr. Rudolph Flesch, the creator of the formula in this bill (hence, the "Flesch test") stated in the preface to his The Art of Plain Talk (Harper & Row, publishers, 1946):

[the book's] main feature is, of course, the formula. I almost wish it were not. Some readers, I am afraid, will expect a magic formula for good writing and will be disappointed with my simple yardstick. Others, with a passion for accuracy, will wallow in the little rules and computations but lose sight of the principles of plain English. What I hope for are readers who won't take the formula too seriously and won't expect from it more than a rough estimate. [Emphasis added.]

Granted the bill includes, in CSHB 247(SA)'s AS 15.58.-025(e), a protection against enjoining the conduct or results of

an election for failure to comply with the formula. However, that very protection provides something of an inconsistency in the bill. The Department of Law would recommend that the laudatory policy of the bill be expressed in less compulsory language. For example, subsec. (a) could be reworded to read as follows:

The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition that is clear, concise, and easily readable. In preparing each ballot proposition, the formula set out in (c) of this section shall be considered, with a score of 65 or more being the target.

A similar rewording should then be done for subsec. (b). The objective is to convey the policy without imposing a requirement of slavish adherence to a formula that will not itself guarantee good, clear, easily understood writing in election materials. This wording is offered as something of a compromise. A statement of the policy, without any reference to the Flesch test formula, would actually be preferable.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.

Very truly yours,

GRACE BERG SCHAIBLE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 
Arthur H. Peterson
Assistant Attorney General

AHP:md

cc: Hon. Mike Davis
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature

Hon. Steven McAlpine
Lieutenant Governor

George Sullivan
Legislative Liaison
Governor's Office

Dana - Valley Fair - Sheets - Fight -

The policy of the State is to prepare a ballot proposition that is clear, concise, and easily readable. The form of each ballot proposition shall be scored under (c) of this section. The policy of the state is to prepare a ballot proposition that is scored at approximately 65.



C

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 1986

THIS STUB TO BE REMOVED BY ELECTION BOARD

STATE OF ALASKA
General Election November 4, 1986

OFFICIAL BONDING
AND MEASURES BALLOT

BONDING PROPOSITION A

STATE GUARANTEED VETERANS RESIDENTIAL
MORTGAGE BONDS \$600,000,000
(Ch.134, SLA 1986)

This proposition would authorize the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to issue up to \$600,000,000 in revenue bonds which are unconditionally guaranteed by the state for the payment of principal and interest. Bonds would be issued for the purpose of purchasing residential mortgages of qualifying veterans. A "qualified veteran" is defined by law.

Shall the State of Alaska unconditionally guarantee as a general obligation of the state, the payment of principal of and interest on revenue bonds of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation issued in the principal amount of not more than \$600,000,000 for the purpose of purchasing mortgages made for residences for qualifying veterans, as defined by law?

BONDS -	
BONDS -	

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1
RECONSIDERATION OF
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
LIMITING INCREASE IN APPROPRIATIONS
(2d FCCSSJR 4; Leg. Res. 1, FSSLA 1981)

In 1982 the voters adopted an amendment to the Alaska Constitution which limits the amount of money that the legislature may appropriate. The 1982 amendment provided for reconsideration of the limit by the voters at this general election. Article IX, sec. 16, of the Alaska Constitution limits appropriations for a fiscal year to \$2.5 billion, adjusted annually for changes in population and inflation since 1981. At least one-third of the limitation amount is reserved for appropriations for capital projects and state loan programs. The remainder (up to two-thirds) may be spent for governmental operations. Appropriations to the Alaska Permanent Fund and appropriations or bond authorizations for capital projects may exceed this limit if they are not vetoed by the governor and are approved by the voters. The limit could also be exceeded to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor. The limit would not apply to appropriations for permanent fund dividends, general obligation bond payments, or for appropriations from revenue bond proceeds.

A vote "FOR" retains the limit.	FOR	
A vote "AGAINST" repeals the limit.	AGAINST	

AK301

VOTE BOTH SIDES

C

I HAVE VOTED



HAVE YOU?

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 2

Constitutional Amendment
LEGISLATIVE ANNULLMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

(1986 Legislative Resolve No. 60, HCS SJR 40 [Jud] am H)

This amendment of the Alaska Constitution would permit the legislature to annul executive branch regulations by passing a resolution that is not subject to veto by the governor or repeal by referendum. The amendment would become effective 30 days after passage by the legislature, unless the resolution sets a different date. The resolution must have three readings in each house on separate days, except that it may be advanced from second to third reading on the same day by a three-fourths vote of the house considering it. The resolution must receive approval of a majority of the membership of each house. The yeas and nays on final passage must be entered in the legislative journals.

A vote "FOR" adopts the amendment.	FOR	
A vote "AGAINST" rejects the amendment.	AGAINST	

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 3

ADVISORY VOTE ON
LONGEVITY BONUS ANNUITY PROGRAM
(Ch. 99 SLA 85, SB56)

The Fourteenth Alaska State Legislature considered two alternatives to the present longevity bonus program. Both were adopted into law, but neither will take effect unless the legislature chooses one of them. The legislature has asked for an advisory vote of the public on the annuity option which is described below.

The annuity option provides that every individual who reaches age 65 by January 1, 1988, including those already receiving the bonus, would receive a longevity bonus payment of \$250 per month. In addition, a person under age 65 on January 1, 1988, could participate in an optional annuity program by depositing all or part of his or her permanent fund dividends in an account held by the state. Upon reaching age 65, a person would receive a monthly payment in an amount determined by how much was contributed to the account. The annuity payments would be supplemented with declining longevity bonus payments paid for with general funds until the annuity accounts were large enough to provide monthly payments of \$250 a month.

The second option provides that every individual who is 65 years old by January 1, 1980, including those already receiving the bonus, will receive a longevity bonus payment of \$250 per month, but that anybody younger than age 65 by January 1, 1988, would not be eligible for benefits.

Should the legislature adopt the annuity option?

YES	
NO	

AK302

VOTE BOTH SIDES

C

(19.20)

(41.53)

(28.42)

(26.93)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/6/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Judiciary
Finance

DATE: 4-15-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered HB 247

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

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with CS HB (SA) 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
- zero fiscal note
- zero with analysis
- same as previous fiscal note published _____
- same as previous zero fiscal note published _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] NO REC

[Signature] No Rec.

[Signature]
Chairman's signature

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

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: HB #247
Publish Date: 4/6/87

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act relating to the readability
of certain election materials"
Sponsor: Davis
Requestor: Davis

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

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						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PAK-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: *Le* Linda Edgeworth Phone: 465-4611
Division: Elections Date: 2-24-87

Approved by Commissioner: *Carol P. Kertcher* Date: 4/13/87
Agency: Office of the Governor/ Division of Elections

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

STATE OF ALASKA

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M E M O R A N D U M

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TO: Grace Schaible
Attorney General
Department of Law

FROM: Stephen McAlpine
Lieutenant Governor

DATE: March 4, 1987

SUBJECT: Attached Proposed Legislation

Attached please find information given to me by the League of Women Voters. I am in favor of legislation similar to this and would appreciate your review of their proposal. It is my understanding that this legislation will be introduced this session. However, if it is not introduced or does not pass the Legislature, I would like to see this become the policy for ballot propositions, etc. for the Division of Elections.

Attachment

cc: Sandi Stout, Division of Elections

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____
 Revision Date: _____
 Title: "An Act relating to certain
 election materials."
 Sponsor: Representative Davis
 Requestor: House State Affairs

Bill Version: HB 247
 Publish Date: _____

Agency Affected: Department of Law
 BRU: Legal Services
 Components: Operations

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 I. Peque

Prepared by: Richard I. Peque, Director

Phone: 465-3672

Division: Administrative Services

Date: April 13, 1987

Approved by Commissioner: Richard I. Peque / FOR / Grace Berg Schaible, Atty. Gen.

Date: April 13, 1987

Agency: Department of Law

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
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- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. HB 247

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

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: HB 247
Publish Date: HOUSE 4/6/87

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
ORU: 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