

HB

463



JOHN B. COGHILL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA
P. O. BOX AA
JUNEAU 99811-0111
(907) 465-3520

March 16, 1992

Representative Bettye Davis
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Davis:

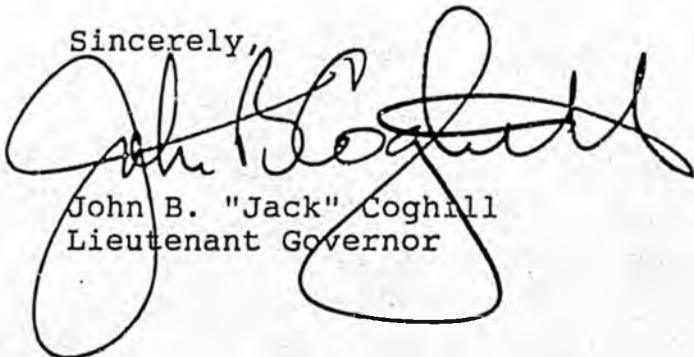
I would like to express my support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

The premise from which this legislation is based is innovative, but grounded in the basic principle that everyone should exercise their right to vote. I believe that every Alaskan deserves an opportunity to access the voter registration process. Any way we can help take the process to the people is a positive step towards encouraging all Alaskans to take pride in themselves and voice their opinions at the ballot box.

I understand that your proposal is similar to the Motor Voter concept where Alaskans can obtain voter registration forms at the Department of Motor Vehicles. I have supported this program and I support your legislation which would reach yet another group of Alaskans; those who presently need to apply for services administered through the Department of Health and Social Services and may not own a car or who otherwise might not realize how easy it is to register to vote.

Representative Davis, I hope your colleagues in the Legislature will join me in enthusiastically supporting your endeavor. If you have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



John B. "Jack" Coghill
Lieutenant Governor

letters of support

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
P.O. BOX AF
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0105
PHONE (907) 465-4611

March 16, 1992

Representative Bettye Davis
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Davis:

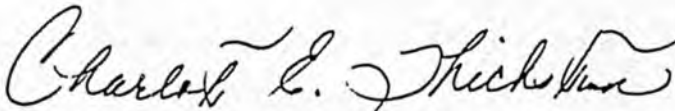
The Division of Elections would like to express its support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

It is encouraging to see the consideration given this innovative concept. This legislation, when passed, would enable those Alaskans who for one reason or another might not have the opportunity to access the voter registration process.

While similar to the Motor Voter concept where Alaskans can obtain voter registration forms at the Department of Motor Vehicles, this legislation would reach yet another group of Alaskans; a group whose members may not own a car or who otherwise may not have realized how easy it is to register to vote.

Representative Davis, the Division of Elections supports your efforts to have voter registration forms available to state residents who apply to the Department of Health and Social Services for general relief, Medicaid, aid to families with dependent children, adult public assistance, or food stamps. If you have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Charlot E. Thickstun
Director

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Office of Majority Whip

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CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

REPRESENTATIVE BETTYE DAVIS

DISTRICT 14 SEAT B • EAST ANCHORAGE • MULDOON

S P O N S O R S T A T E M E N T

I appreciate the committee members hearing HB 463.

HB 463, "requires the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

According to U.S. Census eighty-six percent of all Americans who are registered to vote voted in the 1988 election, but more than 70 million eligible Americans are not registered.

Alaska voter registration laws are found in the election code (AS 15.07). These provisions provide for mail-in registration. Also, they authorize a form of "motor-voter" registration, but there is no other agency-based registration program. All employees of the division of motor vehicles who work at the windows issuing driver's licenses are also deputized registrars of the division of elections. There are signs in the building notifying applicants for driver's licenses that they may also register to vote on the premises.

HB 463 set up a similar program at the Department of Health and Social Services. Studies show that all citizens gain from the increased opportunities to register when a variety of agencies have this service. In some states, people may register at libraries when they apply for deer hunting licenses, or complete medical assistance forms. Proportionately, however, low-income citizens have the most to gain from agency-based voter registration. These groups are more likely to visit places such as public assistance offices, where registration efforts can be most effective. This demographic group is also among the least likely to have utilized motor-voter registration.

The bottom line is that registering to vote should be as convenient as possible for our citizens. We must remember that the purpose of the election process is not to test the fortitude and determination of the voter, but to discern the will of the majority.

Voting is a fundamental right. Lets do our part in making the process easier for all.

Sponsor statement

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HR 463

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act Amending the Dept. of Health and Social Services To Provide Voter Registration Information...
Sponsor: Representative L. Davis
Requestor: Youth Health and Social Services Committee

Department Affected: Office of the Governor-Elections
AKU Division of Elections
Component: 11 Primary and General Elections

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

1	0	2	2
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact: 0

ANALYSIS (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
While there will be additional forms available as a result of this legislation and those employees in the applicable departments in Health and Social Services will require a 1/2 hour training by the Division of Elections, we feel there will be no real additional costs as this is simply an extension of voter outreach services.

Prepared by: LAURA A. GUYER, Project Coordinator Phone: 465-4611
Division: Elections Date: 5/16/92

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: Office of the Governor

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Leg. Dir., Impacted Agency(ies).

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