

HB

463

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

4-24-92

Rules

(7)  
Date Referred: April 16, 1992

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/24/92

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 463

HOUSE BILL NO. 463

VOTER REGISTRATION/PUBLIC ASST. APPLICANT

"An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

RECOMMENDATIONS: [ ] the same title  
 be replaced with CSHB463 (STA) [x] a new title  
 [ ] have attached amendments(s)  
 [x] do pass  
 [ ] do not pass  
 [ ] no recommendations  
 [ ] individual recommendations  
 [ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[ ] fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[x] zero fiscal note State Affairs Committee for DHSIS

[x] zero fiscal note(s) Gov Elections 4/16/92

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Eugene A. Kubera</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Tom Miller</i> <small>MOYER</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>David Prosser</i> <small>CHUGOFF</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Tom Brunner</i> <small>BRUCEMAN</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Sam Baker</i> <small>BAKER</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Max Stuenkel</i> <small>GILBERT</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

*Eugene A. Kubera*  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

APR 27 1992

BILL NO. HB 463

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Health & Social Services

Title: An Act Requiring the Department BRU: Public Assistance Administration

of H&SS to provide voter registration info. Component: Eligibility Determination

Sponsor: B. Davis

Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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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 FUNDS	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:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Distribution and processing voter registration forms in Division of Public Assistance offices will have a workload impact. It increases administrative complexity by adding an additional process and responsibility of unrelated work. Time required would impinge on an already excessive workload. This is a group that currently work overtime and has a backlog of applications and cases; adding this voter registration work results in either fewer public assistance services or higher error rates.

Prepared by: Jan L. Hansen, Director Phone: 465-3347

Division: Public Assistance Date: 4/24/92

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH

Agency: Department of Health & Social Services Date: 4/24/92

Distribution (by Preparer: Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies))

FISCAL - HSS - 0

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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VICE CHAIR  
HEALTH, EDUCATION  
& SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMUNITY AND  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
AND TOURISM

CHAIR  
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 CSHB 463 (State Affairs).

CSHB 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.

CSHB 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.





JOHN B. COGHILL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

P. O. BOX AA

JUNEAU 99811-0111

(907) 465-2520

March 16, 1992

Representative Bettye Davis  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Davis:

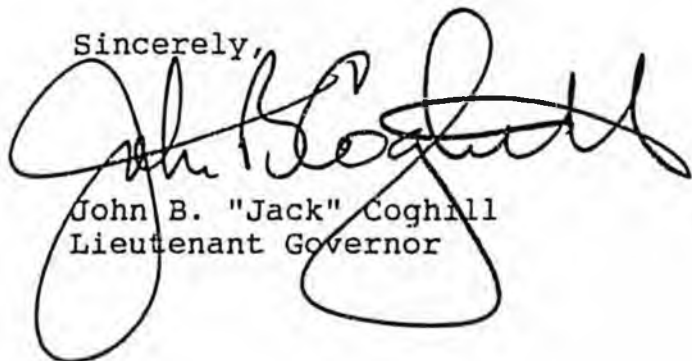
I would like to express my support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

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

SUPPORT - LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

**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:

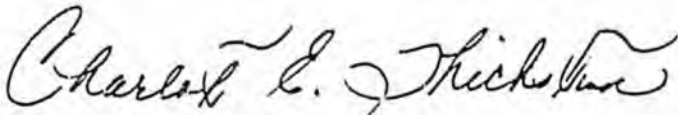
The Division of Elections would like to express its support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

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