

H B

4559

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

January 16, 1984

SUBJECT: Presidential party primary election (HB 460) ^{H 13459} ~~430~~

TO: Representative Mitch Abood
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Richard A. Bradley
Legislative Counsel

I have been asked to comment on the significance of sec. 2 of the bill.

The section provides that if "the effective date of the Act occurs before March 13, 1984, it is the intent of the legislature that the presidential party primary election scheduled for March 13, 1984 be cancelled and not be held in 1984."

The section, as suggested in its language, is an "intent" section. As with almost all intent sections, it is unnecessary to the effectiveness of the law and, if it were deleted from the bill, the bill would have an identical effect.

Since March 13 is the date on which the election is scheduled to occur, a repeal after that date has the effect of repealing the provisions of law stated in section 1 of the bill.

Note however, that if the Act does not have an effective date before March 13, 1984, there is not need to enact the bill to avoid a presidential party primary election in 1988 because present law (sec. 4, ch. 20, SLA 1980) provides for a repeal of the provisions of the law on July 1, 1985.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

RAB:ojb
J2/037

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

JANUARY 9 1/8 funds
Travel/Training election board wkrs (ongoing)
initial ordering of: -special forms -posters, other materials -voter ID cards -voter register- ation forms
program costs for party affiliation & precinct regist- ration changes
temporary staff hired

JANUARY 24 1/4 funds
Travel/Training election board wkrs
order all ballots
sign program contract
initial advertising (print & video contracted)
purchase supplies & postage to all precincts
40 day notices sent out mass mailings

FEBRUARY 12 1/2 funds
Travel/Training election board wkrs
airmail all remaining material
contract for com- munications (election returns cable hoodups, sites)
ballots separated & shipped from printer

FEBRUARY 20 3/4 funds
Travel/Training election board wkrs
10 day notices sent out
secondary advert's- ing contracted (princ, radio, video)
certify-mail all ballots to precincts

MARCH 13 Total funds
payment of all election workers, including: tally teams counting teams canvass boards
rents for halls
transportation of ballots, troopers
polling place set- ups by contractors

HOUSE BILL NO. 459

To vote in the Presidential Primary, a voter must be registered as a Democrat or Republican. According to a recent poll, Independents make up approximately 60% of registered voters in the State.

As well as compelling Alaskan citizens to register with an official party in order to vote, the primary will cost in excess of \$1 million in public funds to finance what is essentially a political party function.

Alaskans obviously value the ability to remain independent of party affiliation and using \$1 million in State funds to force them to register with a Party is a misuse of public funds

For these reasons, I have introduced HB 459, proposing a repeal of the provisions of law relating to the Presidential Primary in the State of Alaska.

Submitted by Rep. Ward's office.