

**HB**

**1 1 2**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: February 26, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/10/97

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 112

HOUSE BILL NO. 112

AMEND DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL PARTY"

"An Act amending the definition of 'political party' except as the definition of the term applies to the regulation of contributions and expenditures in state and municipal election campaigns, an amendment that also has the effect of changing the definition of 'political organization' as applied to the regulation of games of chance and contests of skill."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CSHB112 (Fin.)  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  fiscal note(s) Gov, 2/24/97

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  zero fiscal note(s) DOR, 2/26/97

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Gene Therriault</i>	Therriault	X			
<i>Terry Martin</i>	Martin	X			
<i>Vick Kohring</i>	Kohring	X			
<i>Cal &amp; Davies</i>	J. Davis				X
<i>Ben Edmund</i>	Gruessendorf				X
<i>Paul B. Moses</i>	Moses				X
<i>John A. Davis</i>	A. Davis			X	
<i>Kelly Foster</i>	Kelly Foster	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>		X			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Gene Therriault*

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Revenue  
 Title: AMEND DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL PARTY" BRU: Revenue Operations  
 Component: Charitable Gaming Division  
 Sponsor: Rep. Vezzy  
 Requestor: H (STA) COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1883

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost \$ 0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will change the definition of "political organization." However, this change will not have a fiscal impact on Charitable Gaming Division.

Prepared by: Dennis R. Poshard, Director *DRP* Phone: 465-2279  
 Division: Charitable Gaming Division Date: 2-21-97  
 Approved by Commissioner: Wilson L. Condori *Wilson L. Condori* Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: Revenue

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# FISCAL NOTE

P' 2  
 b. Version: RB 112  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/26/97

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date _____	Dept. Affected <u>Office of the Governor</u>
Title <u>Amend definition of Political Party</u>	BRU <u>Elective Operations</u>
	Component <u>Elections</u>
Sponsor <u>Representative Vezey</u>	
Requester <u>House State Affairs</u>	Component Serial No. <u>#21</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	59.6	10.0	10.0	10.0		
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES [ ]</b>						

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	59.6	10.0	10.0	10.0		
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: none

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

There are approximately 230,000 voters who have not aligned themselves with a political party, registering as Non-partisan, Undeclared, or Other (N,U,O voters). The passage of this legislation would require that the division of elections start tracking and reporting all political party selections.

This change will require substantial reprogramming of the VREMS election registration system. The cost of reprogramming and increased mainframe time are estimated at \$38.0. Assuming that roughly 10% of the current N,U,O voters, would change their registration to indicate a party affiliation results in the printing and mailing of 23,000 voter id cards at a cost of \$10.1. New voter registration cards and training materials will be designed and printed at an estimated cost of \$11.5.

The costs estimated in this fiscal note assume that the division of elections would not be responsible for notifying N,U, and O voters of the change in law. If the division was expected to notify voters of the change, the fiscal note would increase dramatically.

Prepared by <u>Dana LaTour</u>	Phone <u>465-5347</u>
Division <u>Division of Elections</u>	Date <u>2/24/97</u>
Approved by Co <u>Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer</u>	Date <u>2/24/97</u>
<b>COMMITTEE COPY</b> Office of the Lieutenant Governor	

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives

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**Representative Al Vezey**

### **HB 112 SPONSOR STATEMENT**

HB 112 would expand the definition of a political party. It would allow a political party to choose its method of qualification: (1) receive three percent of the vote in the preceding gubernatorial election; or (2) have at least 10,000 eligible voters in the state registered to their party. A political party with 10,000 registered voters would not have to run a candidate for governor every four years to retain status as a political party.

To be recognized as a political party under current Alaskan law, a political party must nominate a candidate for governor every four years. The candidate must receive at least three percent of the total votes cast for governor in the general election. Political parties should not have to enter Alaska's gubernatorial race just to qualify as a political party.

In the 1990 gubernatorial election, the governor was elected by 38.8% percent of the voters. In the 1994 gubernatorial election, the governor was elected by 41.1% percent of the voters. HB 112 would result in a Alaska's governors being elected by a larger plurality and hopefully a majority of Alaskan voters.

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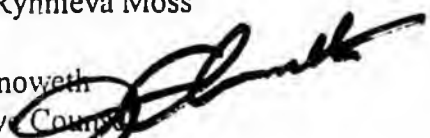
130 Seward Street, Suite 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

## MEMORANDUM

January 29, 1997

**SUBJECT:** Amending the definition of "political party" (Work Order No. 20-LS0455\A)

**TO:** Representative Al Veze;  
ATTN: Rynniva Moss

**FROM:** Jack Chenoweth  
Legislative Council 

Bill section 2 amends the definition of "political party," AS 15.60.010(2), as it is used in the state Election Code in line with your suggested wording.

Because the definition of "political organization" in AS 05.15, covering regulation of gaming, cross-references the definition of "political party" in AS 15.60.010, I had to make a decision as to whether the substantive change made in bill section 2 should affect the definition of political party under gaming regulation. I opted not to have the change affect the gaming regulation provision. Bill section 1, then, simply "unties" the definition of "political party" from its cross-reference to AS 15.60.010 and substitutes the text of the **current** definition of "political party." In other words, though a change is made to AS 05.15.690, it is not intended to have substantive effect. If I did not do this and simply omitted the change being made by bill section 1, redefining "political party" in AS 15.60.010 would necessarily carry over into the gaming regulation provision, and I would have to note the effect of the change in the bill title.

The bill title provided notes an exception. For purposes of campaign financing regulation under AS 15.13 (AS 15.13 is part of the Alaska Election Code), there is a separate definition of "political party" intended to apply only for purposes of treatment of parties under the contribution and expenditure regulation provisions of AS 15.13. The change in definition made in bill section 1 does not affect that definition.

If this bill becomes law, there will be three definitions of "political party" operating in the Alaska Statutes:

-- AS 15.13.400(10)(A) will apply to regulation of campaign financing;

Representative Al Vez.  
January 29, 1997  
Page 2

-- AS 15.60.010(20) as amended by bill section 2 of this measure will apply to provisions of the Alaska Election Code apart from election campaign financing; and

-- AS 05.15.690(34) as amended by bill section 1 of this measure will continue in place the **current** definition of "political party" as applicable to gaming regulation.

\*

If any of this prompts questions, or if you want this redrafted to eliminate the inconsistent definitions, please contact me.

JBC:glc  
97-024.glc

Withdraw

0-LS0455\E.5  
Chenoweth  
3/10/97

AMENDMENT

3

Davis

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 112

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Page 1, lines 8 - 12:

Delete all material and insert:

"(20) "political party" means an organized group of voters that  
represent a political program and that, ~~based upon~~ based upon political party affiliation  
determined with reference to the master register prepared under AS 15.07.127,  
has registered members of the organized group equal in number to at least ~~one~~<sup>3</sup>  
percent of the total vote at the preceding general election; provided, however,  
that, once qualified, a political party retains its status as a political party until  
it fails to have registered members equal in number to at least ~~one~~<sup>3</sup> percent of the  
total votes in each of two successive general elections held in or after 1996 based  
on a comparison of the political party's registration determined with reference  
to the master register prepared under AS 15.07.127 for the general election to the  
total vote at that general election [NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR  
GOVERNOR WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL  
VOTES CAST AT THE PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR];"

Amendment to HB112 2 By Hanley  
Adopted

page 1 line 11:

After has, delete "at least 10,000"

After state, insert "in numbers at least  
equal to 3% of the total votes cast for  
governor at the preceding general election."

(in governor's race)

conceptual amendment

Failed  
3-6

0-LS0455E.1  
Chenoweth  
3/7/97

AMENDMENT 1

DANIED

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 112

1 Page 1, line 9:

2 Delete "either"

3 Page 1, line 9, following "candidate for":

4 Insert "president of the United States, United States senator, United States  
5 representative, or"

6 Page 1, lines 10 - 12:

7 Delete "for governor at the preceding general election or has at least 10,000  
8 registered voters in the state [FOR"

9 Insert "at either of the two preceding general elections [ELECTION FOR"

# Green Party of Alaska

P.O. Box 1 • Anchorage, AK 99524-4331 • home & fax (907) 278-7486 • email: greenmlc@alaska.net

TO: Representative Gen. Therriault  
FR: Jim Sykes

Please examine the following amendments that should be appropriate for HB 112 on parties retaining ballot status. I have asked Representatives Mark Hanley, Terry Martin and Ben Grussendorf to consider the enclosed amendments, which we believe would be fair and good public policy. If you can introduce and/or support these amendments, it would be greatly appreciated. Please call if you have any questions or suggestions. Thanks much. Jim.

Review of HB112 in its present form:

\*\*\*The requirement of 10,000 voters is an arbitrary number that is four to five times higher than the requirement to nominate someone by nominating petition. The courts are supporting more lenient requirements for ballot access, not more restrictive.

\*\*\*1% is a defensible number, (currently ranging between 2,000 and 2,600), whereas 10,000 or approximately 4% to 5% would be seen as further restricting ballot access. 1% of the number of voters who voted in the last general election is the current number required for a statewide candidate nominating petition. It is not logical to require a party to have more than the same number required by a nominating petition. Several western states have requirements that range from 1/20th of 1% to 2/3 of 1% of the registered voters to maintain status. Colorado has pending legislation requiring only 1,000 voters registered to a party, (about 1/6 of 1%).

The following changes would provide meaningful and fair options to demonstrate a "modicum of support" for the recognition of political parties in Alaska. Most people recognize that statewide political activity realistically occurs in more places than just the Governor's race.

AS 15.60.010 (20): "political party" means an organized group of voters that represents a political program and that:

\*\*\* (A) WITHIN THE LAST FOUR YEARS NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OR U.S. SENATE, OR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR U.S. PRESIDENT WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST; OR

\*\*\* (B) WITHIN THE LAST FOUR YEARS NOMINATED AT LEAST THREE STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES EACH OF WHOM RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE GENERAL ELECTION CONTESTS; OR

\*\*\* (C) AT LEAST ONE PERCENT OF THE NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED IN A GENERAL ELECTION DURING THE PRECEDING FOUR YEARS HAVE CHOSEN TO BELONG TO, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF THE ALASKA DIVISION OF ELECTIONS.

(Option C is the same number of people required to nominate a statewide candidate by nominating petition. HB112 requires 4 to 5 times that much).