HB

112

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7) [redacted] [redacted]

Date Referred to Committee: February 3, 1997 FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: _____

The STATE AFFAIRS 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 _____ [ ] 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) _____

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) _____ [ ] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	✓			
	✓			
			✓	

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Lawrence Jones _____

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

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.

LEGAL SERVICES

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Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM January 29, 1997

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

TO: Representative Al Vezey
ATTN: Rynnieva Moss

FROM: Jack Chenoweth
Legislative Counsel

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;

-- 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

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Official Business

Representative Al Vezey

February 10, 1997

Rep. Jeannette James, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. James:

I am requesting that HB 112, *"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 affect of changing the definition of 'political organization' as applied to the regulation of games of chance and contests of skill"* be scheduled for hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.

Attached is the sponsor statement I have prepared.

Sincerely,

Rep. Al Vezey

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO: HB 112

Revision Date:
Title: AMEND DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL PARTY"
Sponsor: Rep. Vezey
Requestor: H (STA)

Dept. Affected: Revenue
BRU: Revenue Operations
Component: Charitable Gaming Division
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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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
Phone: 465-2279
Division: Charitable Gaming Division
Date: 2-21-97
Approved by Commissioner: Wilson L. Condon
Date:
Agency: Revenue

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 112

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

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						
TOTAL OPERATING	59.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES [ ]						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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						
TOTAL	59.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: none

POSITIONS

Full-time						
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	Dana LaTour	Phone	465-5347
Division	Division of Elections	Date	2/24/97
Approved by Co Agency	Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer	Date	2/24/97
	Office of the Lieutenant Governor		

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