

HB

112

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/9/97

FURTHER:

REPORTED OUT OF
APR 18 1997

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE:

4-18-97

Finance Committee considered

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 112(FIN)

AMEND DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL PARTY"

and recommends:

be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)

adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee

further referral to the _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

same title

new title

House Bill:

same title

technical change

new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Paul E. Reed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Al Adams</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bad, 17 d</i>
<i>David Grinnell</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<i>0 d</i>
<i>John Ferguson</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>David Worley</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Co-Chair: <i>Reed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-Chair:			
Co-Chair: <i>David Worley</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-Chair:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
1 Revenue	2/21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2 Elections	2/24		59.6

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

CSHB 112(FIN)

"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."

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S) VEZEY, James

Current Status: (S) FIN

Status Date: 4/09/97

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Pg		Action
2/03/97	219	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
2/03/97	220	(H)	STATE AFFAIRS
2/25/97		(H)	STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 102
2/25/97		(H)	MINUTE(STA)
2/26/97	430	(H)	STA RPT 3DP 1NR
2/26/97	481	(H)	DP: JAMES, HODGINS, DYSON
2/26/97	481	(H)	NR: IVAN
2/26/97	481	(H)	FISCAL NOTE (GOV)
2/26/97	481	(H)	ZERO FISCAL NOTE (REV)
2/26/97	493	(H)	FIN REFERRAL ADDED
3/10/97		(H)	FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
3/10/97		(H)	MINUTE(FIN)
3/12/97	630	(H)	FIN RPT CS(FIN) 5DP 1NR 3AM
3/12/97	631	(H)	DP: THERRIault, MARTIN, KOHRING, KELLY
3/12/97	631	(H)	FOSTER
3/12/97	631	(H)	NR: DAVIS
3/12/97	631	(H)	AM: DAVIES, GRUSSENDORF, MOSES
3/12/97	631	(H)	FISCAL NOTE (GOV) 2/26/97
3/12/97	631	(H)	ZERO FISCAL NOTE (REV) 2/26/97
3/24/97	806	(H)	RULES TO CALENDAR 3/24/97
3/24/97	806	(H)	READ THE SECOND TIME
3/24/97	806	(H)	FIN CS ADOPTED UNAN CONSENT
3/24/97	807	(H)	AM NO 1 FAILED Y10 N26 E4
3/24/97	807	(H)	AM NO 2 FAILED Y10 N26 E4
3/24/97	809	(H)	AM NO 3 FAILED Y11 N25 E4
3/24/97	810	(H)	AM NO 4 FAILED Y10 N25 E4 A1
3/24/97	811	(H)	ADVANCE TO 3RD RDG FAILED Y25 N10 E4 A1
3/24/97	812	(H)	ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 3/25 CALENDAR
3/25/97	830	(H)	READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 112(FIN)
3/25/97	830	(H)	PASSED Y21 N12 E5 A2

3/25/97	830	(H)	ELTON NOTICE OF RECONSIDERATION
3/25/97	841	(H)	COSponsor(s): JAMES
3/26/97	863	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
3/27/97	890	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
3/27/97	890	(S)	STATE AFFAIRS, FINANCE
4/08/97		(S)	STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ ROOM 211
4/09/97	1052	(S)	STA RPT 3DP 1NR
4/09/97	1052	(S)	DP: GREEN, MILLER, WARD; NR: DUNCAN
4/09/97	1052	(S)	(H) FN (GOV)
4/09/97	1052	(S)	(H) ZERO FN (REV)
4/09/97	1052	(S)	REFERRED TO FINANCE
4/18/97		(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907)-456-5081
Fax# (907)-456-8245

Session Address:
Room 13
(907)-465-3719



Official Business

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(14)

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>Vicki Kohring</i>	Kohring	X			
<i>Cal & Davis J. Davis</i>	J. Davis				X
<i>Ben Gussendorf</i>	Gussendorf				X
<i>Charles Moscs</i>	Moscs				X
<i>Gene Davis</i>	G. Davis			X	
<i>Kelly</i>	Kelly	X			
<i>Foster</i>	Foster	X			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Gene Therriault

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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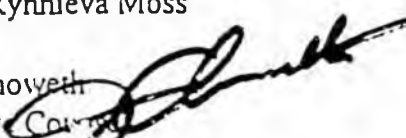
130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 1997

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

TO: Representative Al Vezey
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 Vecz.
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

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

News From The House Majority

web site: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Actuality line: 1-800-478-6540

Ken Freeman
Press Secretary
(907) 465-3804

For Immediate Release: March 11, 1997

Contact: Rep. Al Vezey (907) 465-3719

HB 112 TO GO TO HOUSE VOTE

JUNEAU - Monday the House Finance Committee passed out of committee HB 112, a bill introduced by Rep. Al Vezey (R-North Pole) which would expand the definition of a political party.

The legislation makes it easier for a political party to qualify as a political party under Alaska Statutes.

Currently, in order to qualify as a political party, a party must run a candidate in the gubernatorial election and that candidate must receive 3 percent of the total votes cast for governor. If a party does not run a candidate for governor, it loses its legal status as a party.

HB 112 would add an additional means of qualifying as a political party. If a party has voters registered as members of their party equal to 3 percent of the votes cast for governor in the last election, they will be recognized as a political party. This would allow a party to maintain its party status without having to run a candidate for governor. Currently this amounts to approximately 6500 registered voters.

Rep. Vezey told the committee that the issue is not ballot access. Recognized parties would be able to elect whether or not to run a candidate for governor and anyone who could collect approximately 2200 signatures on a petition, could get their name placed on the ballot for governor.

"Alaska has not elected a governor by a majority since 1970. By allowing another means for parties to maintain their status as a party, we might be able to encourage candidates who are not serious about winning from actually running for office," said Vezey.

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the legislative computer database. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Pagenkopf

HFin 3/10/97 @ 1:44 p.m.

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the legislative computer database. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Pagenkopf

HSTA 2/25/97 @ 8:05 a.m.

1970 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Anderson/Merill	(AIP)	1,206	1.5%
Egan/Boucher	(D)	42,309	52.4%
Sheffield/McAlpine	(R)	37,264	46.1%
Write-ins		**	
	Totals	80,779	100.0%

** Write-in information was not kept in '70 or '74.

1974 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Egan/Boucher	(D)	45,381	47.4%
Hammond/Thomas	(R)	45,602	47.6%
Vogler/Peppler	(AIP)	4,740	5.0%
Write-ins		**	
	Totals	95,723	100.0%

** Write-in information was not kept in '70 or '74.

1978 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Croft/Hurley	(D)	25,656	20.2%
Hammond/Miller	(R)	49,580	39.1%
Kelly/Poland	(A)	15,656	12.3%
Wright/Vogler	(I)	2,463	1.9%
Write-in Hickel*		33,555	26.4%
	Totals	126,910	100.0%

* Primary race close - Hickel had a ballot sticker for his write-in campaign.

1982 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Fink/Colleta	(R)	72,291	37.1%
Randolph/Thompson	(L)	29,067	14.9%
Sheffield/McAlpine	(D)	89,918	46.1%
Vogler/Roberts	(AI)	3,235	1.7%
Write-ins		374	0.2%
	Totals	194,885	100.0%

1986 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Cowper/McAlpine	(D)	89,943	48.7%
O'Brannon/Barnes	(L)	1,050	0.6%
Sturgulewski/Miller	(R)	76,515	41.5%
Vogler/Rowe	(AI)	10,013	5.4%
Write-in Hickel		4,958	2.7%
Write-in Hoch		107	0.1%
Write-in Misc.		1,969	1.1%
	Totals	184,555	100.0%

1990 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Hickel/Coghill	(AI)	75,721	38.9%
Knowles/Hensley	(D)	60,201	30.3%
O'Callaghan/Darby	(TPP)	942	0.5%
Sturgulewski/Campbell	(R)	50,991	26.2%
Sykes/Crun:b	(GPA)	6,563	3.4%
Write-ins		332	0.2%
	Totals	194,750	100.0%

1994 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidates	Party	Total Votes	% of Vote
Knowles/Ulmer	(D)	87,701	41.1%
Campbell/Miller	(R)	87,118	40.8%
Coghil/Ward	(AIP)	27,838	13.0%
Sykes/Lewis	G	8,727	4.1%
Winterround/Nolan	(P**)	1,743	0.8%
Write-ins		277	0.1%
	Totals	213,404	100.0%

** Patriot Party

Author: dcruz@Alaska.NET ("Damon H. Cruz") at CC2MHS1

Date: 3/25/97 7:47 PM

Priority: Normal

TO: Representative Al Vezey at LAA_TRANS

Subject: Party status

As a former Elections chair of the Alaska Libertarian Party, I applaud your proposal to ease and simplify the restrictive requirements for small political party standing. Regardless of any interpretations of this action as partisan or designed for short-term effect it will make it easier to offer the people of Alaska alternative candidates and ideas in the future.

I would also appreciate your support for any other measures designed to simplify or reform campaign funding, elections and political accessibility. The recent campaign spending reforms made progress in some areas, but other features lent themselves to furthering a two-tier system that discriminates against smaller political parties, grass-roots groups and initiative campaigns.

Bill changes rules for minority parties

3/25/97

■ *Democrats call Vezev's legislation pure politics*

By JEANINE POHL SMITH
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Alaskans haven't elected a governor by a majority vote since 1970, and a bill passed by the House today could remedy that, according to sponsor Rep. Al Vezev.

Democrats are calling the North Pole Republican's bill pure politics that could hurt Gov. Tony Knowles' chances of re-election.

House Bill 112 changes the definition of political parties in state law so small parties could maintain their status in the 1998 gubernatorial election without a candidate for governor.

Vezev said today he merely wanted to give parties more flexibility, allowing them to stay current without having to go through the extra effort of running a gubernatorial candidate.

Limits . . .

Continued from Page 1
the state Division of Elections, 213,404 votes were cast in the 1994 general election, with 3 percent equating 6,402 votes.

Rep. Eric Croft said the measure, if passed, could help a Republican candidate for governor in the next race. That's because an AIP candidate wouldn't be able to split the conservative vote with a Republican, but a Green candidate running against Knowles could divide the liberal vote.

... measure passed 21-12, with Juneau Democratic Rep. Kim Elton voting against it. Juneau Republican Rep. Bill Hudson was absent during the vote.

If passed, a political party would qualify as such if it nominated a candidate for governor who received at least 3 percent of the votes cast for governor in the preceding election. It would also qualify if the party has registered voters in the state equal to at least 3 percent of the votes cast for governor in the preceding election.

Under current law, the only way a political group qualifies as a party is if it nominated a candidate for governor who received at least 3 percent of the votes cast for governor in the previous election.

Democrats argue the change could let the Alaskan Independence Party skip the 1998 gubernatorial election, but force the Green Party of Alaska to run a candidate to keep its party status.

That's because the Green Party's 3,000 registered voters are below the 3 percent requirement, while the Alaskan Independence Party's about 16,000 registered voters are more than the requirement. According to

Please see Limits, Page 8

"It's playing politics with our election laws," said Croft, an Anchorage Democrat. "I get the sense that anything that has the potential to hurt Tony Knowles is a priority in this Legislature."

While Knowles, who won the 1994 election by a tiny margin, hasn't declared his intentions, many in the Capitol expect him to run for a second term.

"Rep. Vezev's legislation is pure politics, plain and simple, aimed at influencing the next election," said Bob King, the governor's spokesman, in de-

claring the governor's opposition to the measure.

The AIP supports Vezev's bill, and former Lt. Gov. Jack Coghill, the party's chairman, told the House Finance Committee earlier this month that the group probably wouldn't run a candidate in the 1998 election.

Vezev said he was aware his proposal would be controversial, but his main goal was to give parties an alternative to running a candidate for governor.

"I think it's very reasonable," he said.

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC APR 18 1997

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Revenue
Title: AMEND DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL PARTY" BRU: Revenue Operations
Component: Charitable Gaming Division
Sponsor: Rep. Vezey
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						
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

2

b... Version: HB 112

(H) Publish Date: 2/26/97

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC APR 18 1997

Revision Date _____	Dept. Affected _____	Office of the Governor
Title <u>Amerd definition of Political Party</u>	BRU _____	Elective Operations
Sponsor <u>Representative Vezey</u>	Component _____	Elections
Requester <u>House State Affairs</u>	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)

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						
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 200,000 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>
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Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 112(FIN)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/12/97
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES VEZEY, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 * Section 1. AS 15.60.010(20) is amended to read:

8 (20) "political party" means an organized group of voters that
9 represents a political program and that either nominated a candidate for governor who
10 received at least three percent of the total votes cast for governor at the preceding
11 general election or has registered voters in the state equal in number to at least
12 three percent of the total votes cast for governor at the preceding general election;

Insert effective after 1998 election

*Amended
FAILED
Moved by
Adams
Subject
Date 1/5*

H