

SB

183

SFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

no. 1
 Bill Version: 9B183
 (S) Publish Date: 4/22/97

Revision Date _____	Dept. Affected _____	Office of the Governor _____
Title <u>An Act relating to voter qualification,...</u>	BRU _____	Elective Operations _____
Sponsor <u>Rules Committee</u>	Component _____	Elections _____
Requester <u>Governor</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	(5.3)					
Supplies	(4.0)					
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(9.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES []						
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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	(9.8)					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	(9.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	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)

The cost savings reflected above are the reduced costs of conducting the REAA/CRSA elections by mail. The savings consist of fewer election board worker payments, polling place rentals, and precinct supplies. Some of the savings in these areas are offset by an increase in the cost of absentee review boards and counting teams. The next largest expense is the postal fees associated with mailing ballots to over 30,000 voters. The net result of conducting the elections by mail is a savings of \$9.8. The other benefit of by-mail elections is the potential of a higher voter turnout.

Prepared by Dana LaTour
 Division Division of Elections
 Approved by Co for Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Phone 465-5347
 Date 4/10/97
 Date 4/10/97

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

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April 18, 1997

The Honorable Mike Miller
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mike
Dear President Miller:

This bill I am transmitting amends the state election code to instill higher voter confidence in the election process and provide greater voter access to ensure maximum turnout at the polls.

This legislation proposes to change the election process in Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA) and Coastal Resource Service Areas (CRSA) by conducting elections through the mail. This is expected to increase voter turnout, which has historically been low in these areas. In 1996, average turnout for REAA elections was 35 percent; for CRSA it was 40 percent. Under this bill, the Division of Elections will mail a ballot to all eligible voters in these areas about three weeks prior to the election.

In the 1996 general election, 513 voters participated in the electoral process through absentee voting by personal representative. Fifteen percent of these voters' ballots were rejected. This legislation will make the process less time consuming, less confusing and provide for better accountability.

In an attempt to increase voter participation and voter access, this legislation proposes extending the application deadline for absentee voting by fax to the day before an election. Current law requires the application to be received four days before an election. This change would expand the opportunity to voters who find themselves in extenuating circumstances.


The Honorable Mike Miller
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The legislation also proposes to change the name of the "questioned ballot" to "special review ballot." Many voters have expressed concern and confusion over the term "questioned." This new name more accurately reflects the true intent of the ballot.

Other sections of the bill make technical changes to the election code regarding the official election pamphlet, public notice of elections, and transportation of ballots. Division of Elections staff will be available during the committee process on this bill to offer its full explanation and analysis.

. urge your prompt consideration and passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Tony Knowles
Governor