

SB

183

FEB 16 1998

League of Women Voters of Alaska

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Phone (907) 272-0366 -- Fax (907) 272-0366

February 10, 1998

Honorable Lyda Green, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 2100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

It has come to the attention of the League of Women Voters of Alaska that SB-183, An Act relating to voter qualification, disqualification, and registration; etc., was introduced during the 1997 legislative session and referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee, which you chair.

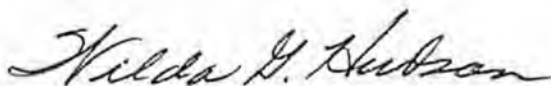
The League of Women Voters of Alaska respectfully request that a hearing on SB-183 be scheduled before the House State Affairs Committee and that such hearing be held by teleconference.

I have obtained a copy of SB-183 and have given it a quick review. It appears that many or all of the amendments proposed in the bill have merit and are worthy of consideration in a Committee hearing. The LWVAK is especially interested in Section 19 of the bill which repeals and reenacts AS 15.20.071, absentee voting by personal representative. Many League members are poll workers on election days. They feel that the present process for absentee voting by personal representative is confusing, time consuming and cumbersome for the voter, as well as the personal representative and election worker. The proposed changes would make it simpler and less time consuming for all.

Again, the League of Women Voters of Alaska, as well as our local Leagues of Anchorage, Tanana Valley (Fairbanks), Juneau, Kenai and Sitka, would certainly appreciate your scheduling a hearing on SB-183 at your earliest convenience and that it be by teleconference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Wilda G. Hudson, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

January 22, 1998

Thanks.
Brett

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 183. (Work Order No. 20-GS0095\A)

TO: Senator Lyda Green, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Attn: Renee

FROM: Richard A. Glover - *RAG*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1 of the bill makes explicit the ability to conduct school board elections under AS 14.08.071 and 14.08.081 by mail.

Section 2 of the bill redesignates ballots previously called "questioned ballots" as "special review ballots."

Section 3 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.070(h) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 4 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.090(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 5 of the bill alters the restriction in AS 15.07.090(c) to allow a voter who transfers registration to a new election district to vote in the new election district if the transfer occurs within 30 days of the election, but only for other than that district's candidates.

Section 6 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.090(d) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

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Section 7 of the bill makes changes to AS 15.07.100 to allow for the original appointment of registration officials.

Section 8 of the bill adds a provision to AS 15.07.100 that election board judges and clerks also serve as additional registration officials on election day.

Section 9 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.130(d) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 10 of the bill alters AS 15.15.070(b) to require public notice of the election to be given in each Judicial district, and to correct a minor grammatical error.

Section 11 of the bill alters the content of the abbreviated notices of the election required by AS 15.15.070(h) that will be broadcast to include name, address and telephone number of the election supervisors in place of information referring to the newspaper publication of the notices.

Section 12 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.198(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 13 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.215(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 14 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.225(c) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 15 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.350(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 16 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.380 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 17 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.07.430(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 18 of the bill alters AS 15.20.015 to place new restrictions on a voter who votes absentee in their old election district because the voter has moved to a new election district within 30 days of an election. The absentee voter may only vote for statewide concerns, federal or statewide candidates, state senators if the voter's new and old residence are in the same senate district, and judges if the voter's old and new residences are in the same Judicial district.

Section 19 of the bill reorganizes the procedure in AS 15.20.071 for absentee voting by personal representative for voters with a disability. The letter from a licensed physician is no longer required. Applications are to be made by the voter, designating a personal representative. Election officials issue ballots to the designated personal representative upon proper identification and certification. A personal representative may also assist a disabled voter, except to make the voting decision. A candidate may now act as representative.

Section 20 of the bill alters the cutoff deadline under AS 15.20.018(b) for receipt of an electronically transmitted application for an absentee ballot. The new deadline is 5:00 p.m. of the last weekday before the election.

Section 21 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.190 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 22 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.205 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 23 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.207 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill, and to clarify the duties of the director of elections to notify a voter of the denial or registration of the voter by casting a special review ballot only.

Section 24 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.211(e) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill, and to clarify the duties of the director of elections to notify a voter of the denial or registration of the voter by casting a certain absentee ballot.

Section 25 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.220 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 26 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.480 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 27 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.620(b) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 28 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.640(c) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 29 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.670 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill, and to make minor grammatical corrections.

Section 30 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.700(a) to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill, and to make a minor grammatical correction.

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Section 31 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 15.20.670 to conform to the changes made by sec. 2 of the bill, and to make minor grammatical corrections.

Section 32 of the bill alters AS 15.20.800 to prohibit elections by mail if that election is conducted at a time when any primary election is held.

Section 33 of the bill alters AS 15.58.020 to require inclusion of the Alaska permanent fund annual income statement and balance sheet for the previous 2 fiscal years to be included on the election pamphlet.

Section 34 of the bill delays the date under AS 15.58.030(a) from July 15 to August 30 of a presidential election year, that candidates for U.S. President and U.S. Vice-President may file photographs and statements with the Lt. Governor advocating their candidacy.

Section 35 of the bill alters the disclosure under AS 15.58.030(d) for candidates photographs and statements to also include disclosure that they were provided by the candidate.

Section 36 of the bill clarifies the requirements for the photograph of a candidate under AS 15.58.030(f) to allow a color portrait.

Section 37 of the bill adds a new section to AS 15.58 to provide immunity from civil suit against the state, any state official, employee, or election official, arising out of the publication of the official election pamphlet.

Section 38 of the bill alters AS 36.30.850(b)(7) to allow the state to contract for transportation of election ballots.

Section 39 of the bill makes explicit the ability to conduct coastal resource service area elections under AS 46.40.110 - 46.40.180 by mail.

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