

SB

185



FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

FEB 02 RECD

February 2, 1998

The Honorable Lyda Green
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Green:

During the first session of the 20th Alaska State Legislature, SB 185, relating to voter registration list maintenance, was introduced and referred to the Senate State Affairs committee.

I am writing to ask your support in scheduling a hearing for this legislation at your earliest convenience. Under the National Voter Registration ACT (NVRA) the state's ability to do list maintenance was significantly limited. As a result, the Division of Elections has received complaints from candidates, the press, and the public about the great number of inaccuracies in our voter rolls. It is imperative that the legislature act on this issue this session so that the Division of Elections can address list maintenance issues immediately following the 1998 elections.

Prior to implementation of the NVRA in 1995, Alaska conducted an annual review and purge of the list of registered voters. This review targeted voters without recent voter history. Because one of the premises of the NVRA states that voters cannot be removed solely on their failure to vote, Alaska's list maintenance procedures must be revised.

Legislation was passed in 1996 in an attempt to bring the statute into compliance with federal law, but subsequent review by the United States Department of Justice indicated that the procedures were problematic, and the Department of Justice authorized a lawsuit against the state of Alaska.

Senate Bill 185 was introduced to bring the state's list maintenance requirements into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

I would appreciate your help in scheduling this bill for a hearing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the staff at the Division of Elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fran", written in a cursive style.

Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Lyda Green
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

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Ans'd.....


Dear Senator Green:

The Division of Elections is excited about two pieces of legislation that have been introduced this session. The first piece of legislation, SB 185, deals with voter list maintenance. We have prepared for you the enclosed quick reference guide concerning the bill in anticipation of any questions you may have prior to committee hearings.

The second piece of legislation, SB 183, is a much lengthier bill and deals with voter qualification, election notices, mail elections, personal representative voting, transportation of ballots and the official election pamphlet. A quick reference guide is also enclosed for your reference.

We hope you will find the information we've included in the reference guides useful. If you have additional questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Gail Fenumiai, of my office, at 465-3935.

Sincerely,


Sandra J. Stout
Director

Enclosures