

**SB**

**187**




# SENATOR JERRY WARD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senator Gene Therriault, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee

**FROM:** Senator Jerry Ward 

**DATE:** April 10, 2001

**SUBJECT:** SB 187 Request for Hearing

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I respectfully request a hearing for SB 187, "An Act relating to absentee voting stations." This legislation would require that there be public notice of all "absentee voting in person" stations prior each election and establish uniform opening date for those locations. Enclosed is a Sponsor Statement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff should have any questions, please contact me at 465-4940.

JW/lrb



# SENATOR JERRY WARD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SB 187 Sponsor Statement

### **“An Act relating to absentee voting stations”**

This legislation will require the director of elections to notify the voting public of all “absentee in person voting” locations at least 60 days prior to an election. It will also provide a uniform statewide opening date for absentee in person voting. Currently the location and opening periods for absentee voting stations is at the discretion of the director of the division of elections and requires no public notice. This has led to some inconsistencies in opening dates and voting locations.

SB 187 requires that the director of the division of elections provide full public notice of the location of all absentee voting stations at least 60 days prior to each election. No new absentee voting station sights may be added or opened after the 60-day notification period.

Absentee voting stations will be operated on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> day before a primary, general, or special election. Qualified voters may apply in person for an absentee ballot at the absentee voting station on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> day before an election up to and including the date of the election. Absentee voting stations can not be opened early.

Having a uniform state wide opening date and prior notification of all absentee voting in person location will make for less confusion for the voters and a more even playing field for all concerned.

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