

HB

496



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 496(STA)  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/29/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: GOV  
 Title An Act creating the Youth Vote Ambassador RDU Elections  
 Program \_\_\_\_\_ Component Elections  
 Sponsor Representative(s) Dahlstrom, McGuire  
 Requester State Affairs Committee Component No. 21

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Division of Elections.

Prepared by: Leonard G. Jones  
 Division Division of Elections  
 Approved by: Laura A. Glaiser, Director  
 Agency Office of the Lt. Governor, Division of Elections

Phone 465-3051  
 Date/Time 3/26/04 9:55 AM  
 Date 3/26/2004

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## SPONSOR STATEMENT CS HOUSE BILL 496 (STA) *Youth Vote Ambassador Program*

House Bill 496 presents us with a unique opportunity to enliven the interest of young people in the political process and in their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

The intent of this bill is threefold:

- To increase awareness and interest in voting among Alaska's young people,
- To allow for meaningful student involvement in elections; and
- To relieve the shortage of election workers.

Youth Vote Ambassadors, high school students 16 years and older would assist at the polls as part of elections boards. These Ambassadors would be appointed and trained by the Division of Elections and supervised by an elections board chairperson. These students will serve on the election board, in addition to the three adults outlined in law, and under the supervision of the election chairperson. As are current adult poll workers, these youth ambassadors will also receive compensation for their duties.

Currently, 74% of states have laws that allow for Election Day workers under 18 years of age. In Alaska, legislation is necessary to create the Young Vote Ambassadors Program since current law requires members of the election board be qualified voters.

In an attempt to reverse the 25-year decline in voter participation among those within the 18-24 age group, HB 496 plants the seed of civic responsibility at an early age and encourages more young people to become action in the political process.

This legislation also amends the qualifications for appointment to a precinct election board by clarifying that the Division of Elections must first try and find qualified individuals in the precinct, and if no one is found then guides the Division to look at the district, and then if still no one is available the Division can seek poll workers statewide. This provides a bit more flexibility to the election supervisors as they seek qualified individuals to serve in this important function.

HB 496 has a zero fiscal note. The legislation passed the House unanimously and I ask for the committee's favorable support.