

HB

274

<TARGET><BILL>HB 274</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
274</SUBJECT><COMM>HJUD28</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska Legislature
Representative Charisse Millett

Session:
State Capitol Building, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069



Interim:
Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Room 620
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
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MEMORANDUM

Charisse Millett

To: Chairman Wes Keller, House Judiciary Committee
From: Rep. Charisse Millett
Subject: Hearing request for HB 274
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014
CC:

Please schedule a hearing on House Bill 274 at your earliest convenience. All the necessary documents are included with this request.

HB 274 creates public and legislative hearing requirements for referendums appearing on state primary and general election ballots.

Jeff Turner is the staffer assigned to this legislation and his direct line is (907) 465-6588.

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rep.charisse.millett@akleg.gov
District 24

Version: 28-LS1236\A

Sponsor Statement – House Bill 274

"An Act relating to public hearings on initiatives and referenda scheduled to appear on the ballot; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Legislature passed comprehensive legislation (HB 36) reforming the state's initiative process in 2010. That legislation, known as the Open and Transparent Initiative Act, made significant improvements to the existing initiative process.

It mandated financial disclosure statements from the initiative sponsors, required signature gatherers to carry a copy of the ballot initiative and public hearings (two per judicial district) across the state.

House Bill 274 extends the public hearing and legislative review requirements to include referendums.

- The lieutenant governor will hold at least two public hearings on the referendum in each judicial district at least 30 days before the election that will have the referendum on the ballot
- A standing committee of the legislature, selected jointly by the presiding officers of house and senate, will hold a minimum of one hearing on the referendum
- A legislative hearing must be held within 30 days of the convening of the legislative session preceding the statewide election that the referendum will be voted on

These common sense steps give Alaskans the opportunity to learn more about a referendum before entering the voting booth and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HB 274 was referred to the House State Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Prepared by Jeff Turner on January 28, 2014

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 274 (Work Order No. 28-LS1236\A)

TO: Representative Charisse Millett
Attn: Jeff Turner

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *ALB*
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. Requires the lieutenant governor, if a referendum is scheduled to appear on the ballot, to hold at least two public hearings concerning the referendum in each judicial district of the state at least 30 days before the election. Establishes notice requirements and guidelines for the conduct of the hearings.

Section 2. Requires a standing committee of the legislature to hold at least one hearing on each referendum that is scheduled to appear on the statewide ballot.

Section 3. Specifies what must be included in a hearing held under AS 24.05.186 on an initiative or a referendum.

Section 4. Applies the new requirements in section 1 of the bill to initiatives and referenda appearing on the ballot after the effective date of the Act. Applies sections 2 and 3 to initiatives and referenda on a ballot after the August 2014 primary.

Section 5. Makes the bill's provisions effective immediately.

ALB:lem
14-050.lem

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 274
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB274-OOG-DOE-1-31-14
Title: HEARINGS ON REFERENDA
Sponsor: RLS
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Office of the Governor
Appropriation: Elections
Allocation: Elections
OMB Component Number: 21

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: Gail Fenumiai, Director
Division: Division of Elections
Approved By: Guy Bell, Administrative Director
Agency: Division of Administrative Services, Office of the Governor

Phone: (907)465-2644
Date: 01/31/2014 12:15 PM
Date: 01/31/14

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 274

Analysis

This legislation proposes to require public hearings for referendums scheduled to appear on an election ballot. It would also require legislative hearings on referendums scheduled to appear on an election ballot. Currently public and legislative hearings are only required for initiative petitions scheduled to appear on an election ballot. The public hearing requirement of the bill takes effect for referendum appearing on the ballot after the effective date of the act. The legislative hearing requirement would take effect for initiative or referendum scheduled to appear on the ballot after the August 2014 primary election. These changes have no impact on the financial costs associated with the division's conduct of state and federal elections. Nor will any additional staff be required to implement the proposed law.



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February 6, 2014

Honorable Representative Charisse Millett
Room 403
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Millett,

The Alaska Municipal League is in full support of HB 274. We have gotten involved in initiatives and referendums in the past, as many times they affect local government. Local government, as well, operates under a very open process under Title 29. Being the government closest to the people, that is something of which we are quite proud.

We believe this bill will give more people in the State a better opportunity to know as much about the facts, from all sides. While it can be argued that apathy is a huge problem, it might be more dangerous to have people voting on issues they truly don't understand.

The Alaska Municipal League appreciates your bringing this bill forward. We would encourage passage through each committee and a final positive vote in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director