

**SB**

**149**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 149</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
149</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR  
**JOHN COGHILL**  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Judiciary Committee  
*Chairman*  
In-State Energy Committee  
*Co-Chair*  
State Affairs Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee  
Legislative Council  
Rules Committee



Senate

Session:  
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TO: Senator Fred Dyson, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Senator John Coghill, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JCO", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DATE: February 25, 2014

SUBJECT: Request to Hear SB 149

I respectfully request a hearing for Senate Bill 149, "Hearings on Referenda," at your convenience.

Attached to this memorandum:

- Current Version of the Bill
- Sponsor Statement
- Sectional Analysis

If you have any questions, please contact me or my staff Jordan Shilling at 465-5834.

# 28<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR  
JOHN COGHILL  
CHAIRMAN

State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3719



SENATOR  
LESIL MCGUIRE  
VICE-CHAIR

State Capitol, Room 103  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
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## Senate Judiciary Committee

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

Hearings on Referenda  
Senate Bill 149

In 2010, the Alaska Legislature passed HB 36 that reformed Alaska's initiative process. The bill mandated sponsors of an initiative to file financial disclosures, required signature gatherers to carry a copy of the initiative, and established public hearings on initiatives (two per judicial district) across the state.

Senate Bill 149 extends those same requirements to referenda:

- ✓ The lieutenant governor will hold at least two public hearings on the referendum in each judicial district at least 30 days before the election.
- ✓ 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.

This bill gives Alaskans greater opportunity to become informed about a referendum and allows more public input prior to that referendum being on the ballot.

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## Senate Judiciary Committee

### **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.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 149  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB149-OOG-DOE-2-28-14  
Title: HEARINGS ON REFERENDA  
Sponsor: JUDICIARY  
Requester: Senate 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	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2015 Request	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
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>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<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>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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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
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Prepared By: <u>Gail Fenumiai, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-2644</u>
Division: <u>Division of Elections</u>	Date: <u>02/28/2014 09:15 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Guy Bell, Administrative Director</u>	Date: <u>02/28/14</u>
Agency: <u>Division of Administrative Services, Office of the Governor</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 149

**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.