

SB

152

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152</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA28</COMM></TARGET>



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Hollis French

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 152

An Act Permitting a Voter to Register up to and on the Day of an Election

The constitutional right to vote is a keystone of our democracy. Barriers to exercise this right should be minimal. Under current statutes, an Alaskan voter must be registered thirty days prior to an election or else they are ineligible to vote in state elections. Senate Bill 152 allows Alaskan residents to register to vote and vote on the same day.

SB 152 does not change the essential qualifications for voting. In order to vote legally in Alaska a person must be a citizen of the United States, must be 18 years of age or older, and must have been a resident of the state for at least 30 days.

SB 152 simply encourages first-time voters to register and vote. It helps those unaware of registration requirements and redistricting decisions to vote a questioned ballot outside of their house district.

Eleven states and the District of Columbia have already enacted same-day registration laws. Similar legislation is being considered in ten more states. Please join me in supporting this legislation.