

HB

13

<TARGET><BILL>HB 13</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
13</SUBJECT><COMM>HFIN29</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Administration
Corrections
Military and Veterans Affairs



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 26 Anchorage
E-Mail: Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov
REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA
District 20 Anchorage
E-Mail: Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 13

“An Act repealing the authority to include certain material from a political party in the election pamphlet.”

Current statute allows political parties to purchase two pages of material in the Official Election Pamphlet, the state’s publication to alert the public of candidates for office. In the past, political parties have used the pages to give general information about their platforms, however, in the 2014 election, an attack ad against a candidate was placed in the Official Election Pamphlet for the first time by a party. It may be that no party realized they could use their space for this purpose, or only one party chose to do so. That is irrelevant. No political party has proven to be above placing attack ads, and in the future we can expect to see more of these from multiple parties, turning a relatively non-partisan pamphlet into one that adds to the excessive noise of undesirable attack ads during election season. This bill repeals those sections of the law that allow political parties to place ads in the Official Election Pamphlet.

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 9, 2015
FROM: Representatives Bob Lynn and Les Gara
RE: Explanation of changes to HB13: Official Election Pamphlet Ads

Sections 1 and 2 were removed in the Committee Substitute. These sections were the portions relating to printing the postage required to mail the absentee ballot on the envelope itself. These portions had addressed our concern that people were unaware of what the correct postage was for mailing the absentee ballot. The bill language, according to the Division of Elections, creates some difficulties that they may be able to avoid by remedying the problem internally. The remaining portion of the bill removes political party ads from the Official Election Pamphlet.

Representative Les Gara
Representative Bob Lynn

Joseph Caissie

From: Linda Shore <sharasmom@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 12:35 PM
To: Joseph Caissie
Subject: HB13

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern:

Please pass this bill. There should be no ads of any kind about anything in the voter information booklet.

Thank you!

Linda Shore
Anchorage
sharasmom@gmail.com

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There's nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse....Lord Palmerston

Joseph Caissie

From: Gail Heineman <gail_heineman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Joseph Caissie
Subject: HB13 - support

I support HB13, eliminating the language in state statutes that allows political parties to include up to 2 pages of material in the official Alaska Election Pamphlet. There should be no partisan ads in the election pamphlet. Thank you.

Gail Heineman
2732 W 67th Ave
Anchorage AK 99502
gail_heineman@yahoo.com

Joseph Caissie

From: Susan Ruddy <sruddyalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 5:21 PM
To: Joseph Caissie
Cc: Les Gara
Subject: HB 13

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This message is to state my vigorous support for HB 13. It is simply unacceptable to permit political ads in the election pamphlet. It is as if those same ads were permitted inside the voting booth and everyone would find that intolerable.

Thank you for passing this message along to our lawmakers.

Susan Ruddy
2435 LaHonda Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
Sruddyalaska@gmail.com
Alaska: 907-229-2707
Sent from my iPad

Sec. 15.58.020. Contents of pamphlet. (a) Each general election pamphlet must contain

- (1) photographs and campaign statements submitted by eligible candidates for elective office in the region;
- (2) information and recommendations filed under AS 15.58.050 on judicial officers subject to a retention election in the region;
- (3) a map of the house district or districts of the region;
- (4) sample ballots for house districts of the region;
- (5) an absentee ballot application;
- (6) for each ballot proposition submitted to the voters by initiative or referendum petition or by the legislature,
 - (A) the full text of the proposition specifying constitutional or statutory provisions proposed to be affected;
 - (B) the ballot title and the summary of the proposition prepared by the director or by the lieutenant governor;
 - (C) a statement of the costs to the state of implementing the law proposed in an initiative, or of voter approval or rejection of the act that is the subject of a referendum;
 - (D) a neutral summary of the proposition prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency;
 - (E) statements submitted that advocate voter approval or rejection of the proposition not to exceed 500 words;
- (7) for each bond question, a statement of the scope of each project as it appears in the bond authorization;
- (8) a maximum of two pages of material submitted by each political party;

Sec. 15.58.040. Material to be filed by political parties. (a) No later than July 15 of a year in which a state general election will be held, a political party may file with the lieutenant governor a maximum of two pages of material.

(b) Each page purchased must be clearly identified with the words "paid for by" followed by the name of the political party, the name of the state chairperson of the party, and the name of the party treasurer.

Sec. 15.58.060. Charges for space in pamphlet. (a) Each general election candidate shall pay to the lieutenant governor at the time of filing material under this chapter the following:

- (1) President or Vice-President of the United States, United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, supreme court justice, and court of appeals judge, \$300 each;
- (2) superior court judge and district court judge, \$150 each;
- (3) state senator and state representative, \$100 each.

(b) The state chair or executive committee of a political party shall pay to the lieutenant governor at the time of filing material under this chapter \$600 for each page purchased.

(c) There is no charge for statements and recommendations submitted by the judicial council or for statements advocating approval or rejection of a proposition submitted to the voters for approval.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSHB 13(STA)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	2/11/2015

Identifier: HB013-OOG-DOE-2-3-15
 Title: ELECTION PAMPHLETS AND ABSENTEE
 BALLOTS
 Sponsor: LYNN, GARA
 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)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	***		***	***	***	***	***	***
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***	***

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***	***

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

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

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) 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:

Not applicable, initial version.

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

Phone: (907)465-2644
 Date: 02/02/2015 03:42 PM
 Date: 02/02/15

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This legislation would require the division to print envelopes showing the amount of postage required to return a by-mail ballot. This legislation also repeals the statutes allowing political parties to provide information in the Official Election Pamphlet.

The fiscal impact resulting from the requirement in Section 1, page 2, lines 8-10 of the proposed legislation cannot be accurately determined at this time. This provision would require the envelope used to return a voted by-mail ballot to have the required amount of postage printed on the envelope. At the time the envelopes are printed, the cost of the returning the ballot materials is not known. The division currently includes in the ballot mailer packet a bright colored notice indicating the amount of return postage required.