

HB

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1</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA30</COMM></TARGET>



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

Sponsor Statement House Bill 1 Election Registration and Voting

The right to vote embodies the spirit of American democracy. Casting a vote is the most discretely effective way to have one's voice heard in the political process. When we exercise our right to vote we impact our community far beyond an election. We are able to elect individuals who will make decisions on our behalf about how our government will be run, set the policies that will guide our state, and how resources, both national and local, are distributed.

Unfortunately, a surprising number of Americans don't exercise their right to vote. On average, only about half of eligible US voters cast ballots. Although, Alaska is one the states which exceeded that number in 2016 with a turnout of 60.77% in the general election. However, forty percent of Alaskan voters are still not being heard.

House Bill 1 includes a series of changes designed to increase voter participation and access to voting across the state by improving and clarifying the voting process. These changes include:

- Providing same day voter registration to allow all eligible Alaskans the opportunity to vote;
- Enhancing online voter registration with electronic signatures to make the registration process quicker and easier;
- Ensuring the same early voting locations are available during every election;
- Creating an option for permanent absentee voting for individuals that plan to vote by mail every year; and
- Clarifying and unifying terminology for early voting to remove confusion between early voting and absentee in-person voting.

By adopting the changes in House Bill 1, we can take a step forward to increase the voice of all Alaskans.

Session (January-April):
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Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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Sectional Analysis House Bill 1 ver R.A Elections and Voting

Section 1: Removes language from AS 15.05.010 that requires a qualified voter to register under AS 15.07 before an election.

Section 2: Permits a person registering or reregistering as a voter to apply using an electronic signature.

Section 3: Requires that every registration form must include a space for an applicant who is registered in another jurisdiction to specify that jurisdiction. The director will then notify the chief elections officer in that jurisdiction.

Section 4: Instructing the director of the division to determine the form of electronic signature to be used when registering to vote.

Section 5: Allows a qualified voter registering on the day of, or within 30 days of an election, to vote a questioned ballot at that election.

Section 6: Amends AS 15.07.070(h) the procedure for registration is amended to clarify the use of a special needs ballot and clarifies that on the voter's certificate on the ballot that registration includes a voters choice to declare a political party, non-partisan or undeclared.

Section 7: Stating that section 15.07.070 includes special needs ballot which is defined under 15.20.072.

Section 8: Amends AS 15.07.090(b) stating if a voter registration is cancelled under AS 15.07.130 (voter registration list maintenance), and they re-register they shall vote a questioned ballot.

Section 9: Conforming language for same day voter registration. This amends AS 15.07.090(c) – voting after change of name, reregistration – to add language that states if a person moved to a new precinct they vote a questioned ballot. This does not change that the person must live in the precinct they are voting in for at least 30 days.

Section 10: Cleans up language about a voter who is not found on the voter registrar to vote a questioned ballot. By voting a questioned ballot, there is a review process by the division to ensure they are a qualified voter.

Section 11: Definition expansion for absentee or questioned ballot to include a special needs ballot.

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Section 12: Conforms AS 15.07.130(e) to changes made in section 19 of the bill which changes terminology of “absentee and absentee in person voting” to early voting. This is to clarify to the public as absentee in person voting stations has been confusing so we want to call it what it is – early voting.

Section 13: Clarifies privileges of poll watchers in a general election or special election related to ballot propositions.

Section 14: Adds a new section to AS 15.10.170 appointment and privileges of poll watchers to clarify poll watchers may be designated by prescient party chair, organized group, or candidate. This is the language that was removed in section 13 and made a new subsection.

Section 15 - 18: Relates to questioned ballot procedure and adding a declaration attesting to the fact that the voter has been a resident of the election district for 30 days and that all of the information provided by the voter is accurate.

Section 19: Renames absentee voting stations “early voting stations.” Provides that a location designated as an early voting station will remain an early voting station for subsequent elections unless the location is no longer available for use or the director of the division of elections determines that the location is no longer appropriate. Requires the director to make a determination that a location is no longer appropriate for use as an early voting station available to the public in writing.

Section 20-23: Conforms AS 15.20.050 to changes made in Section 18 related to early voting stations.

Section 24: Allowing voter registration updates through electronic absentee ballot and fax. Voter registration updates are allowed through all other means so the division asked that we also allow for updates when people use electronic transmissions.

Section 25: Requires an absentee ballot application to include an option for a voter to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state elections. Provides conditions under which the director may require a voter to reapply to receive absentee ballots by mail.

Section 26: Conforming changes for same day voter registration. Amends AS 15.25.060(b) relating to preparation and distribution of ballots; appropriate ballot.

Section 27: Definition of electronic signature

Section 28: Conforming to section 19 of the bill related to early voting stations.

Section 29: Conforming to same day voter registration, stating those who register within 30 days before a municipal election shall vote an absentee, special needs or questioned ballot in that election. The voter is required to live in the district for at least 30 days.

Section 30: Conforming to same day voter registration. Repeals AS 29.26.050(a)(3): voter qualifications, is registered to vote in state elections at a resident address within a municipality at least 30 days before the municipal election at which the person seeks to vote.

Section 31: Provides authority to the director of the division of elections in uncodified law to adopt or amend regulations as necessary to implement the changes made by the Act.



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

District 23 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood and Windemere

MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2018

TO: Senator Kevin Meyer
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Rep. Chris Tuck
House Majority Leader 

SUBJ: Memo of Changes for House Bill 1

The following changes were made in the House State Affairs Committee:

- Clarified the definition of electronic signature in sections 2 and 3.
- Additional conforming changes needed to be added to reflect same day voter registration changes. This included adding sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 23, 25, 28, and 29.
- Section 14, 15, 16, and 17 were added at the Division of Elections request to include a declaration to be completed by the voter stating the information they are providing is true and accurate on all questioned ballots.
- Section 24 relating to receiving a permanent absentee ballot each year, there was a change to reflect that if any mail has been returned from the voter's address that they will be removed from receiving a ballot in the mail automatically.
- Due to outdated statutes, some sections were amended within Title 15 to reflect the Division of Elections current processes.
 - Section 5: added registration for party affiliation to the voter's certificate process and added special needs ballots to be reflected as well.
 - Section 6: added a new subsection that absentee and questioned ballot also includes the use of special needs ballot.
 - Sections 12 and 13: Appointment and privileges of poll watchers was updated to reflect poll watchers for ballot propositions and for candidates are permitted.

The following change was made in the House Judiciary Committee:

- An amendment was adopted to ensure every registration form will include a space for an applicant who is registered in another jurisdiction to notify the director in order to be removed from any other jurisdictions in which the applicant was previously registered to vote.

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Sectional Analysis House Bill 1 Election Registration and Voting

Section 1. Removes language from AS 15.05.010 that requires a qualified voter to register under AS 15.07 before an election.

Section 2. Permits a person registering or reregistering as a voter to apply using an electronic signature.

Section 3. Allows a qualified voter registering on the day of, or within 30 days of an election, to vote a questioned ballot at that election.

Section 4. Conforms AS 15.07.130(e) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 5. Renames absentee voting stations “early voting stations.” Provides that a location designated as an early voting station will remain an early voting station for subsequent elections unless the location is no longer available for use or the director of the division of elections determines that the location is no longer appropriate. Requires the director to make a determination that a location is no longer appropriate for use as an early voting station available to the public in writing.

Section 6-8. Conform AS 15.20.050, AS 15.20.061(a), and AS 15.20.072(b) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 9. Requires an absentee ballot application to include an option for a voter to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state elections. Provides conditions under which the director may require a voter to reapply to receive absentee ballots by mail.

Section 10. Defines “electronic signature” for AS 15.

Section 11. Conforms AS 29.20.380(c) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 12. Provides authority to the director of the division of elections in uncodified law to adopt or amend regulations as necessary to implement the changes made by the Act.

Section 13. Provides an effective date for the bill’s provisions.

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HB 1 ELECTION REGISTRATION AND VOTING

Representative Chris Tuck

What does this bill do?

This is an omnibus election bill.

- Removes some language on requirements of voter registration
- Allows for an electronic signature
- Requires registration forms to have a space to list previous jurisdiction one is registered in
- SECTION 5: Allows a qualified voter registering the day of, or within 30 days of an election to vote a questioned ballot
- Amends statute to clarify use of a special needs ballot
- If a voter registration is cancelled, and they re-register, they shall vote a questioned ballot
- SECTION 9: Conforming language for same day voter registration
- Clarifies privileges of poll watchers (Section 13)
- Renames absentee voting stations as “early voting stations”
- Allows for voter registration updates through electronic absentee ballot and fax
- Gives director of division of elections to adopt or amend regulations as necessary
- SECTION 25, top of page 11, has language that would provide permanent absentee ballots

Potential Issues:

This bill has all sorts of subjects that could be questioned down more. The same day registration is one. But then the idea of being able to have permanent absentee ballots is appealing. There is language about poll watchers, especially when it comes to initiatives, there is a lot of clean up, and it would be interesting to find out how well this dovetails with moving the state to a mail-in ballot.

Legislative History

HB 1 was heard in HSTA several times and moved with 4DP (Wool, LeDoux, Tuck, & JKT) and 3NR (Johnson, Knopp, Birch)

In HJUD it was heard and moved with 4DP (JKT, Fansler, LeDoux, and Claman) 1AM Eastman. On the House Floor this bill passed Y22 to 17N.

Fiscal Impact:

It has a zero fiscal note from the Division of Elections. However, I am surprised that there are no costs attached since at minimum this would require people to change up their regulations and forms.

QUESTIONS:

- Does this bill move us closer to a statewide ballot by mail situation?
- By adding electronic signature to the voting process, will this mean being able to vote through My Alaska? Because as we have understood it we can't even register to vote through My Alaska and since this bill is allowing for an electronic signature I would think you would be able to do that.
- I have a concern about Section 5. In section 1 the bill states that you have to be living in a district for 30 days in order to be eligible to vote, but in section 5, letter (d), why are you are allowing someone who registers on the day of an election to vote absentee?
- I had a constituent who was blind who was driven to the polling place and had an auditory device that they used to vote. Are there other special needs ballots? How are they accessed?
- So let's say I move from Anchorage to Fairbanks a week before Halloween. Now I would assume I would just vote absentee in the Anchorage district, but your section 9 would allow me to vote in Fairbanks, is that correct?
- Could you go through Section 13 with a little more detail? I don't understand why on page 6, lines 10-13, you are allowing more "watchers" for ballot propositions but political parties can only have one "watcher."
- In Section 25, page 11, lines 1-5, would this mean that once someone checked the box to receive an absentee ballot that that ballot will continue to always be sent to the address until it is either returned as undeliverable or if the person doesn't return their ballot four years in a row? Is this a permanent absentee ballot?
- So according to section 26, if I switch parties within 30 days before the primary election, I can choose either primary ballot?

Alaska Dispatch News

Politics

Report says Russians 'compromised' Alaska websites or voter registration system

✍ Author: Nathaniel Herz ⌚ Updated: 1 hour ago 📅 Published 2 hours ago

JUNEAU — A new report from NBC News said Tuesday that Alaska is one of seven states where federal intelligence suggests that either state websites or voter registration systems were "compromised" by Russian efforts before the 2016 election.

The report, attributed to three unnamed "senior intelligence officials," calls into question what Alaska's top elections official, Josie Bahnke said in September: that Russian "cyber actors" made a failed effort to access Alaska's voter registration database in 2016. She said at the time that the state's election systems were not "compromised," according to information her office received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Bahnke did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday, and Alaska officials also did not respond to NBC's requests for comment.

NBC's report does not specify what kind of breach occurred in Alaska. Nor does it say whether the "compromised" system in the state connected directly to voting or was an unrelated website.

The Trump administration, like Obama's, has not shared a federal intelligence assessment that reveals which states were compromised, NBC's report said, adding that that could be because the information is classified as a government secret. The report quoted state and federal officials as saying that no votes were changed nor were any voters removed from election rolls.

About this Author

Nathaniel Herz

Nathaniel Herz covers politics and general assignments.

Comments

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Anchorage 907-522-8683
Fairbanks 907-451-2835
Juneau 907-465-3021
Nome 907-443-5285
Mat-Su 907-373-8952

STATE OF ALASKA
Division of Elections
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer:

Since the Division of Elections is within the purview of the State Affairs Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to members and their staff to participate in a voting equipment vendor showcase at the Hotel Captain Cook on May 8-9, 2018 in Anchorage.

The State of Alaska Division of Elections and members of the Lt. Governor's Election Policy Work Group are exploring the purchase of a Voting System to replace the current optical scan system purchased in 1998. While the system is fully integrated, federally certified, and accurately counts ballots, it had an expectation of a 20-25 year life cycle and equipment replacement parts are no longer being manufactured.

Vendors Hart Intercivic, ES&S, Clear Ballot Group and Dominion Voting Systems will conduct demonstrations on three types of Voting Systems: a paper ballot precinct-based system, a paper ballot vote by mail system, and a vote by mail system along with vote center opportunities. We've also requested that they provide a demonstration showing ballot design through ballot tabulation on both types of systems. An agenda for the Technology Fair and Election Policy Work Group is attached.

We hope that you are able to join us. If you have further questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Josie Bahnke".

Josie Bahnke
Director

Cc: Senate State Affairs Committee Members
Senator Gary Stevens



Decide Alaska's Future.

VOTE ✓

Vendor Technology Fair & Election Policy Workgroup Meeting

May 8-9, 2018
Hotel Captain Cook

Tuesday, May 8

8:30 am to 11:00 am	Presentation in the Adventure Room: Ron Clevenger of Hart Intercivic
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Presentation in the Quadrant Room: Bryan Hoffman & Kevin Kerrigan of ES&S
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	<i>Afternoon Break</i>
3:00 pm to 5:30 pm	Presentation in the Adventure Room: Don Deford & Keir Holeman of Clear Ballot Group

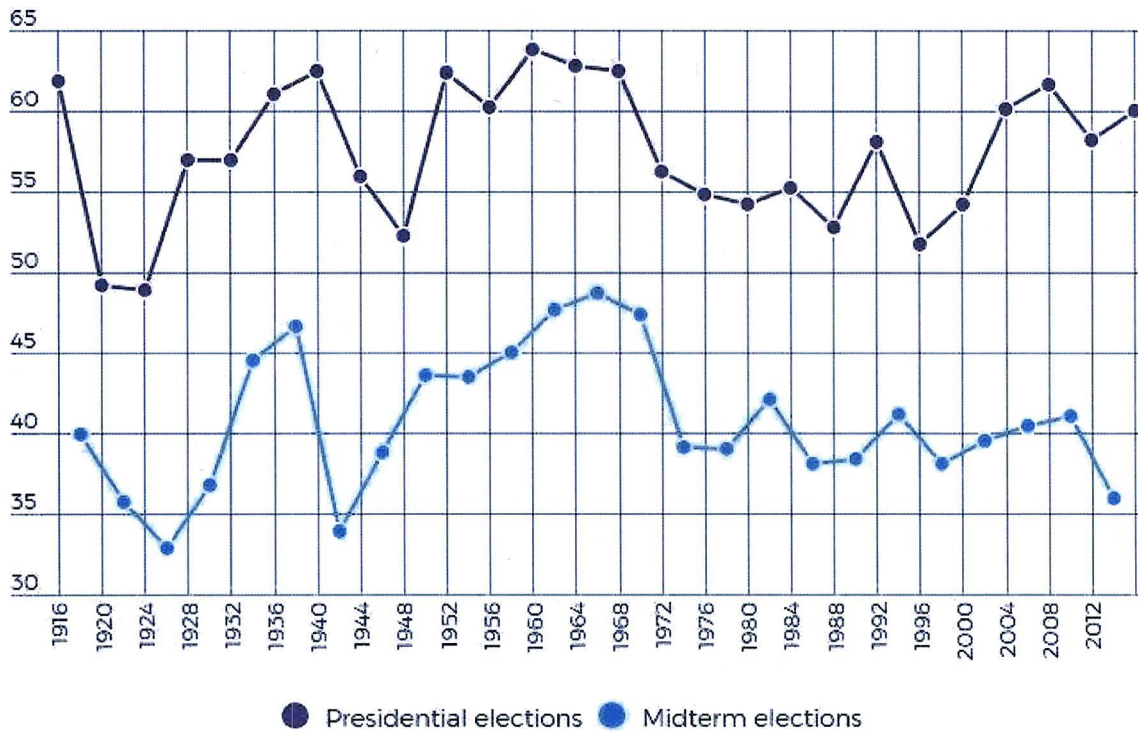
Wednesday, May 9

8:30 am to 11:00 am	Presentation in the Quadrant Room: Dana LaTour of Dominion Voting Systems
11:00 am to 1:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Election Policy Work Group Meeting in the Adventure Room

Voting Information and Statistics

Voter turnout in the United States fluctuates in national elections. In recent elections, about 60% of the voting eligible population votes during presidential election years, and about 40% votes during midterm elections. Turnout is lower for odd year, primary and local elections.¹

Voter Turnout Rates, 1916 - 2016



National estimates of voter turnout expressed as a percentage of the voting eligible population.

Source: United States Elections Project (<http://www.electproject.org/>)

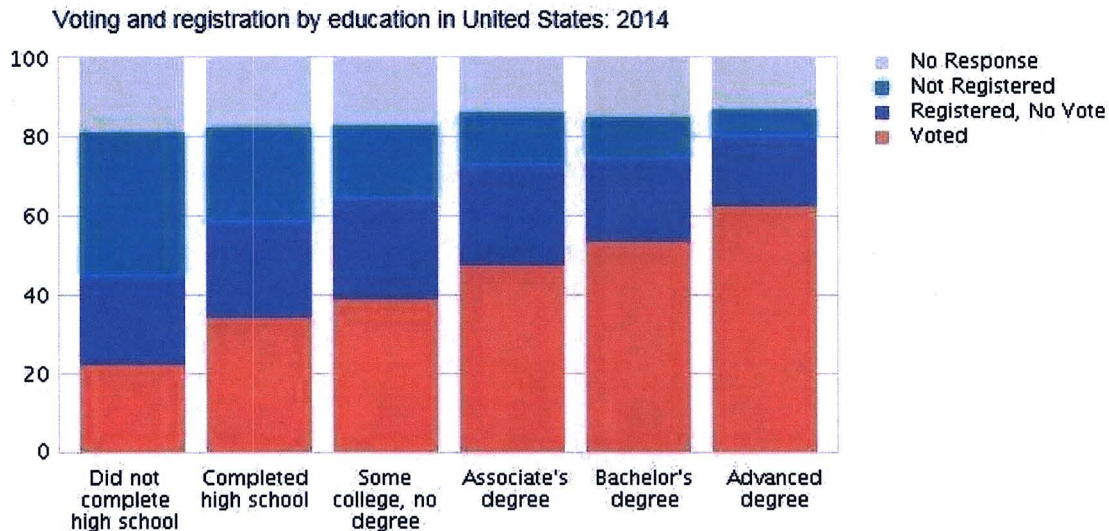
¹ FairVote http://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101 and United States Elections Project <http://www.electproject.org/>

What determines voter turnout?

- The level of education of state residents appears to be a relatively strong predictor of voter turnout. While there are a number of exceptions, states with higher college attainment rates tend to have greater voter participation. Of the 20 states with the lowest voter turnout, 16 have a bachelor's attainment rate below the national share of 30.6% of adults.² - U.S Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey
- One of the main predictors of voter turnout is whether the election is closely contested. When a candidate appears poised to run away with an election, turnout tends to be much lower. When polls appear to be heavily favoring one candidate, voters may feel they cannot make much of a difference.³
- On the other hand, turnout may be lower in this election because of the candidates. One recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center showed that about 40% of eligible voters said they had difficulty choosing between the two major party candidates because neither was worthy of the presidency.⁴

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with education

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with education. In 2014 in the United States, the voting rate for citizens with at least a bachelor's degree was 56.3 compared to 22.2 percent for those who had not received a high school diploma.



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

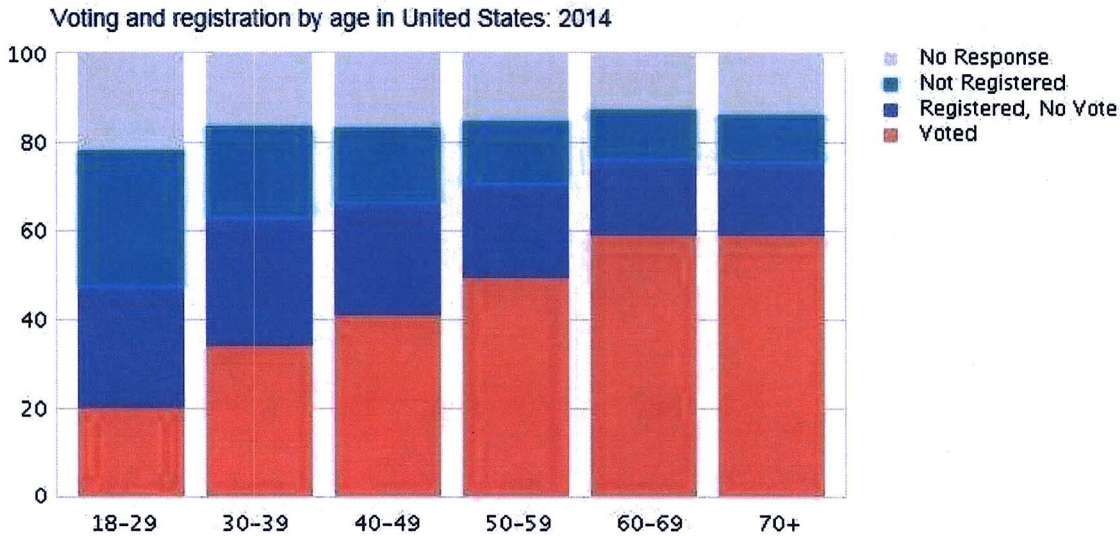
² The percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree and poverty rates came from the U.S Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a

³ States with the Highest and Lowest Voter Turnout. Huffington Post, October 2016 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a

⁴ States with the Highest and Lowest Voter Turnout. Huffington Post, October 2016 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with age

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with age. In the United States in 2014 only 17.1 percent of 18-to-24-year-olds voted, compared with 59.4 percent of those 65 and older.



Other Miscellaneous Election Information

- Other democracies around the world typically hold elections on the weekend or declare Election Day a national holiday. Presidential elections in the United States, however, are held during the work day. For this reason, individuals living in poverty are far less likely to vote than higher income individuals, at least in part due to lack of flexibility in the workplace. On the state level, however, the share of workers employed hourly did not appear to be the greatest single factor in voter turnout. – Huffington Post, States with the Highest (and Lowest) Voter Turnout, October 2016
- At least 51 million, or nearly 1 in 4 eligible citizens are not registered to vote. That's more than 24% of the eligible population. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- Online voter registration costs less – 3 cents per registration, compared to 83 cents paper form. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- 4 out of 5 registrations in state with online registration conducted electronically. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- 39% of adults do political or civic activities on social networking sites. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- Political engagement on social networking sites is especially commonplace among the youngest Americans, as two-thirds (67%) of all 18-24 year olds (and nearly three quarters of those young adults who use social networking sites) engaged in some sort of social network-related political activity in the 12 months preceding the PEW Research Center Survey.

Political engagement on social networking sites

60% of American adults use social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter; these are some of the civic behaviors they have taken part in on these sites:

	% of SNS users who have done this	% of all adults who have done this
"Like" or promote material related to political/social issues that others have posted	38%	23%
Encourage other people to vote	35	21
Post your own thoughts/comments on political or social issues	34	20
Repost content related to political/social issues	33	19
Encourage others to take action on political/social issues that are important to you	31	19
Post links to political stories or articles for others to read	28	17
Belong to a group that is involved in political/social issues, or working to advance a cause	21	12
Follow elected officials, candidates for office or other public figures	20	12
Total who said yes to any of the activities listed above	66%	39%

Contributing Factors to High Voter Turnout

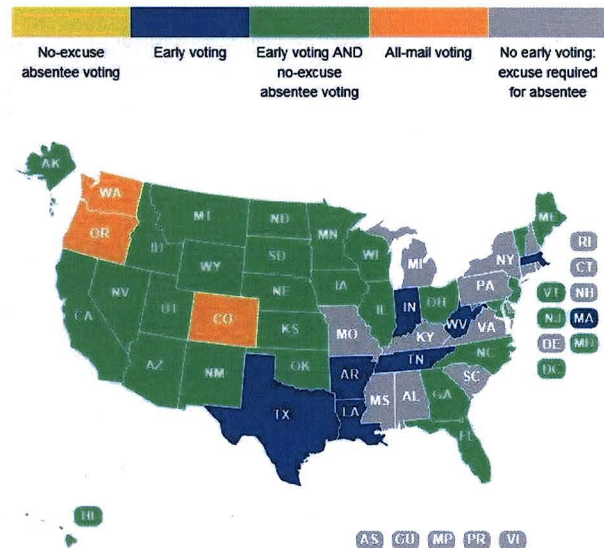
Wisconsin, Maine and Minnesota, who have higher than average voter turnout, attributes their success to allowing new voters to register and vote on Election Day. Same-day registration is the biggest factor in generating high voter turnout as it generates a possible voter increase of 10 percent.⁵

Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie attributes the state's consistently high rating to state policies and an emphasis on reducing barriers to voting access. The most effective policy is same-day registration, Ritchie says. Election officials also go to high school civics classes or assemblies, and they bring voting machines to the state fair to show people how easy it is to vote.⁶

Vote by mail is relatively new on our electoral landscape and advantages of this procedure has taken form in cost savings, increased voter participation, convenience for voters, and easier for election officials.

For example, between 1995 and 1997 in Oregon, counties saved over \$1 million on three vote-by-mail special elections. If, during that same period, primary and general elections had been conducted by mail, Oregon counties could have saved an additional \$3 million.

Since Oregon adopted a vote by mail system, they have continued to be in the top 10 states for voter turnout.



⁵ Eric Ostermeier, Ph.D., Research Associate at University of Minnesota, Department of Political Science

⁶ Project Vote. Voter Turnout: the 6 states that rank highest, and why by Allison Terry. And FairVote.org/turnout

Early Voting: What Works by the Brennan Center for Justice

Key benefits of early in person voting are:

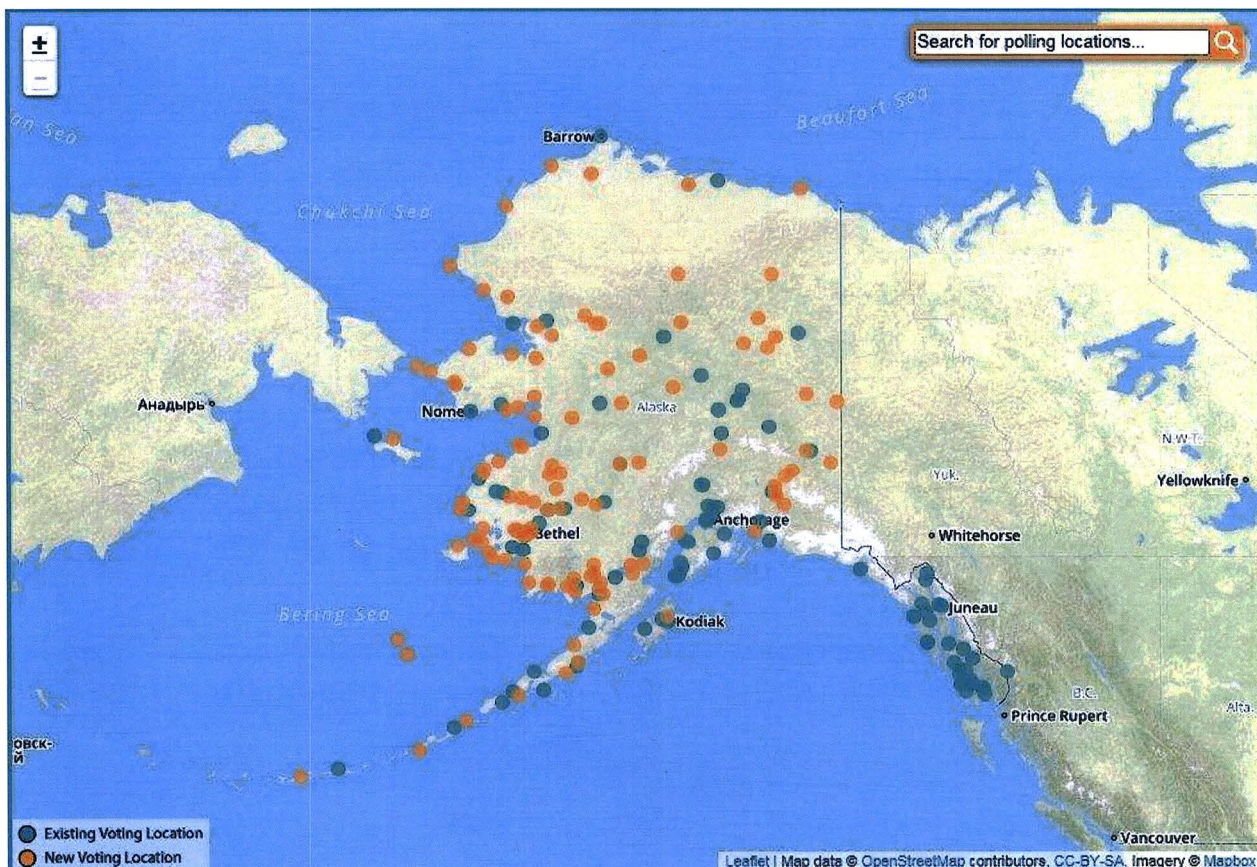
1. Reduced stress on the voting system on Election Day
2. Shorter lines on Election Day
3. Improved poll worker performance
4. Early identification and correction of registration errors and voting system glitches
5. Greater access to voting and increased voter satisfaction

Based on this research, the following policy recommendations for early in person voting:

1. Begin early in person voting a full two weeks before Election Day
2. Provide weekend voting, including the weekend before Election Day
3. Set minimum daily hours for early voting, provide extended hours outside standard business hours
4. Allow use of both private and public facilities
5. **Distribute early voting places fairly and equitably**
6. Update poll books daily
7. **Educate the electorate about early voting.**

Efforts to increase voter access in rural Alaska

To increase voter access across the state, particularly in rural areas, the Alaska Federation of Natives, ANCSA Regional Association, Get Out the Native Vote and numerous Native Corporations worked with communities to set up 128 new early voting locations in 2014.



Barriers to Equal Voting Rights in Alaska

Not all communities in Alaska have an early voting location.

Hospitals should also be included as early voting sights as many individuals travel from rural areas to receive medical care and are unable to be transported outside the hospital to vote.

Language barriers: Toyukak v. Treadwell case demonstrated the state was not adequately providing language assistance according to the Voting Rights Act.

Insufficient training for early voting officials.

Requirement to register to vote 30 days before election.

The Future of Elections

Technology and social media have been changing the face of voting:

- There are new innovation like electronic poll books that would bring benefits to voters and officials in polling places.⁷
- A study published in 2012 found that Facebook feeds have a significant impact on voting patterns. The findings indicate that certain messages increased turnout directly and indirectly by a total of 340,000 votes. Close ties were also found to be far more influential than weaker ties.⁸
- The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a multistate partnership that uses a sophisticated and secure data matching tool to improve the accuracy and efficiency of state voter registration systems.⁹
- A number of states are reviewing or implementing new voting equipment. For example, Louisiana authorized the Secretary of State to develop and implement a piolet program for new voting equipment.

Another issue taking off now is the improvement of state voter registration systems and management. During the last five years, more than 30 states have made online voter registration available. Alaska implemented online voter registration in November 2015.¹⁰

At least 22 states have provisions allowing certain elections to be conducted entirely by mail. Oregon, Washington, and Colorado have implemented all-mail elections. California will be following vote by mail elections taking effect in 2018. Permanent absentee voting is available in 7 states and DC.¹¹

Hawaii approved electronic ballot transmission and return for permanent absentee voters. Louisiana, and Virginia approved electronic transmission for certain voters.¹²

⁷ National Conference of State Legislatures, *The Canvass: States and Election Reform*. Issue 75. January 2017

⁸ Robert Bond and James Fowler, et. al. "A 61 Million Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization, September 2012.

⁹ PEW Charitable Trusts. Electronic Registration Information Center. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/election-initiatives/about/upgrading-voter-registration/eric>

¹⁰ National Conference of State Legislatures, *The Canvass: States and Election Reform*. Issue 75. January 2017

¹¹ National Conference of State Legislatures. *Early Voting, Absentee Voting and Voting by Mail*.

http://www.ncsl.org/documents/summit/summit2015/onlineresources/Stewart_Early_Voting_Absentee_Voting.pdf

¹² National Conference of State Legislatures. *The Canvass, State and Election Reform*. December 2016.



March 28, 2017

Sent Via Electronic Mail
Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 1 "Electronic Registration and Voting"

Dear Representative Tuck,

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I would like to express our support for H.B. 1 "Electronic Registration and Voting." AFN is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership is comprised of 152 federally recognized Indian tribes, 152 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 nonprofit organizations and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

AFN supports House Bill 1 because the right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. AFN supports many of the changes in H.B. 1 that will clarify the voting process, improve access to voting, and increase voter participation. In the 2014 general election, AFN, ANCSA Regional Association, and Get Out The Native Vote coordinated with the Division of Elections to create absentee in-person voting sites in rural Alaskan communities. This collaborative effort helped create the same access to voting in many of our rural locations that urban areas of Alaska currently benefit. From these efforts and outreach at the Annual AFN Convention it was evident that there is widespread confusion among the public regarding the terminology for early voting and absentee-in person voting and how they differ. H.B. 1 would eliminate this confusion by uniformly identifying the locations as "early" voting stations.

AFN additionally supports H.B.1 because it will enhance the voter registration process by allowing for electronic signatures. Currently, applicants are required to go through a cumbersome process to print and sign an application, then scan or fax the signed application to the Division of Elections. In addition to this process many rural Alaskans lack access to a printer, scanner or a fax machine and H.B. 1 would permit applicants to complete a form in person at one of the five Alaska Division of Elections regional offices.

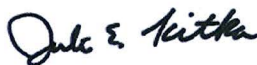
Furthermore, many rural Alaskan residents lack the means to travel to an elections office due to the high cost of airfare. By allowing electronic signatures under H.B 1, it would streamline the voter registration

process that has proven advancement with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends ((seems like an abrupt end, what does this mean?))

Lastly, AFN is supportive of H.B.1 due to its enhanced voter participation and access through the establishment of a permanent absentee voting option that would develop an avenue for voting by mail. Voting by mail would eliminate the pressure and rush to a polling site by offering the option to vote from home. This would be very beneficial to many Alaskan residents who are often busy fishing and hunting in August during the primary election, or during potential inclement weather in November during the general election.

H.B. 1 will be a huge step forward in Alaska's history by making voting more accessible, easier, and equitable for all Alaskans. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding this letter, please call me at 907-274-3611.

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka



ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
Bringing Together Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs

PO Box 240766 • Anchorage, AK 99524 • 907 339 6052

Board of Directors

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Gabriel Kompkoff
CEO

Chugach Alaska Corp.

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Gail Schubert
President and CEO
Bering Straits Native
Corp.

Treasurer

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Corp.

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Anthony Mallott

President and CEO
Sealaska Corp.

Julie Kitka

President
Alaska Federation of
Natives

February 28, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Re: Support for House Bill 1, An Act Relating to Absentee Voting, Voting and Voter Registration; Relating to Early Voting Locations and Which Persons May Vote Absentee Ballots; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of the ANCSA Regional Association (the Association), we write to express our support for House Bill 1, Electronic Registration and Voting. The ANCSA Regional Association represents the Chief Executive Officers of the twelve land-based regional Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), as well as the President of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Our corporations are owned by over 121,000 Alaska Native people and were formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. § 1601, et. seq. (ANCSA). Our mission is to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations on behalf of our shareholders. When measured against the top 49 Alaska-owned companies, ANCs account for 75 percent of the revenue earned, 69 percent of Alaskan jobs, and 86 percent of the global employment. Making up 20 of the top 49 Alaska-owned companies, Alaska Native Corporations have become an economic engine of Alaska.

The Association respectfully writes in support of House Bill 1. As many of you know and appreciate, the right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. ANCSA Regional Association is supportive of H.B. 1 because we believe it includes important changes that will clarify the voting process, improve access to voting, and increase voter participation.

During the 2014 primary and general election, representatives from ANCSA Regional Association, Get Out The Native Vote and the Alaska Federation of Natives assisted the Division of Elections in creating absentee in-person voting sites in villages that either did not have one or needed to reestablish themselves officially with the state. In assisting with this process, it was clear there was a widespread confusion among the public regarding the terminology for early voting and absentee-in person voting. We believe H.B. 1 helps alleviate this confusion by uniformly calling the voting stations "early" voting stations.

The ANCSA Regional Association supports H.B.1 because it will enhance voter registration process by allowing for electronic signatures. Currently, applicants are required to print and sign an application, then scan or fax the signed application to the Division of Elections. Another option is for the applicant to complete a form in person at one of the five Alaska Division of Elections regional offices. Many residents in rural Alaska may lack access to a printer, scanner or a fax machine. Furthermore, rural residents may lack the means to travel to an elections office due to the high cost of airfare. We believe allowing electronic signatures will make the registration process quicker and easier.

The ANCSA Regional Association supports H.B.1 because it will enhance voter participation and access through the creation of a permanent absentee voting option. Voting by mail removes the pressure to rush through the process of picking candidates and understanding complex ballot initiatives. By voting at home, individuals have the opportunity to research the issues, vote at their convenience, and have available language assistance. Many residents in rural Alaska are often busy fishing and hunting, especially in the August primary, so by eliminating the additional step of applying for an absentee ballot each year will be an important enhancement to our voting system.

The ANCSA Regional Association believes every Alaskan resident who seeks to participate in the political process should be afforded an equal opportunity to cast a vote, and House Bill 1 helps make voting more equitable. The ANCSA Regional Association is supportive of H.B. 1.

Sincerely,
ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION



Kim Reitmeier
Executive Director

cc: ANCSA Regional Association Board of Directors



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693
Main: 907.465.3250
Fax: 907.465.1398

February 27, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Capitol, Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HB 1, Election Registration and Voting

Dear Representative Tuck:

The Alaska Commission on Aging is pleased to offer our support for HB 1, a bill authored by you, which is designed to increase voter participation and access to voting statewide. The right to vote is the most effective way for citizens to have a voice in the democratic process by electing officials to make decisions about government operations and policies that guide our great state and nation. Seniors are "super voters" as they are proud to exercise their right to vote in almost every election. The Commission supports many of the provisions in HB 1 to improve voter participation among all Alaskans, particularly in places such as rural and remote areas of the state, and among younger voters, where voter participation can be lower.

While we agree with most of the provisions in HB 1 to increase voter access, we are concerned about the statute change that would allow for same day registration and voting for two reasons. First, citizens who register and vote on the same day do not receive and have time to consider the brochures and political information that are sent to registered voters prior to elections. This information prepares citizens to cast their ballots responsibly as informed voters for the election of officials and consideration of ballot initiatives. Second, same day registration and voting has the potential to lead to accusations of voter fraud. Pending passage of this legislation, we recommend that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor implement safeguards, such as separating ballots casted by voters who registered and voted on the same day for greater scrutiny as is currently done with absentee ballots, to ensure that all votes are legitimately cast.

The Commission supports HB 1 and appreciates your consideration of our concerns. We thank you for your leadership of this legislation to promote greater voter participation in Alaska. Please feel free to include the Commission's letter in the bill packet for HB 1.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David A. Blacketer in blue ink.

David A. Blacketer
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denise Daniello in blue ink.

Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director



505 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
www.akaction.org

April 13, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for House Bill 1, An Act Relating to Absentee Voting, Voting and Voter Registration; Relating to Early Voting Locations and Which Persons May Vote Absentee Ballots; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT), we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1, Electronic Registration and Voting. ACAT is a statewide environmental health and justice organization established in 1997. Our mission is to ensure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe that everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy.

ACAT is part of a cohort of organizations supported by the Groundswell Fund's Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) program. This funding gives us the opportunity to increase voter engagement in long-term, sustainable ways for historically underrepresented populations. Our work focuses especially on reaching people of color, young people, and women to encourage them to be involved in the political process. We do this by registering voters, using door and phone canvassing to educate people on policy issues, and reminding people to vote.

HB1 is a great step in making sure that voting is accessible for more people. Increasing access to online voter registration will make the process more accurate since voters will be entering their own information. Online registration also makes it easier for rural

Alaskans to register since it eliminates sending paperwork to offices at the Division of Elections.

Permanent absentee voting gives voters more time to research the issues and candidates since they will be able to vote by mail. As voters will not need to apply each year for this option it will be easier for people to remember to vote in the first place. Voting from home will also be beneficial to people who need assistance and additional time with language translation.

The bottom line is that our democracy works best when everyone is involved. As a state, Alaska should be doing everything it can to increase access to and participation in voting. The strength of our state lies in the vast diversity of people who live here. HB1 will amplify the voices of all Alaskans and make our voting process more equitable. We strongly urge the passage of HB1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela K. Miller".

Pamela Miller
Executive Director

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 1
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB01-OOG-DOE-4-05-18
Title: ELECTION REGISTRATION AND VOTING
Sponsor: TUCK
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)

	FY2019	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2019 Request	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
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

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) 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? **yes**
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **01/01/19**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated for SLA 2018 form.

Prepared By:	Josephine Bahnke, Director	Phone:	(907)465-2644
Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	04/05/2018 03:56 PM
Approved By:	Shawn Henderson, Administrative Director	Date:	04/05/18
Agency:	Division of Administrative Services, Office of the Governor		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 01

Analysis

This bill is designed to increase voter participation by simplifying the voter registration process and by simplifying the absentee by mail and absentee in person processes.

This bill will have an impact on the Division of Elections (DOE) internal processes and computer database programming. Specifically, it will impact DOE's Online Voter Registration System programming, Voter Registration Electronic Management System programming, absentee in person processes, and questioned ballot processes.

In order to implement the requirements of House Bill 1, changes are necessary to the DOE's existing voter registration and election management system to automate the inactivation of the Permanent Absentee Voting List. The division anticipates that House Bill 1 changes will require the division to contract for additional database development and enhancement of our existing system for signature verification. The cost of additional hours for programming will be mitigated as the division will prioritize these enhancements over others covered under the existing maintenance agreement with our vendor.