

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 129(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/28/23

Referred: Judiciary

Sponsor(s): HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to voter registration; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 15.07.130(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Periodically, at times of the director's choosing, but **not** [NO] less
 5 frequently than in January of each calendar year, the director shall examine the master
 6 register maintained under AS 15.07.120 and shall send, by nonforwardable mail to the
 7 voter's registration mailing address, **and to the voter's electronic mail address, if**
 8 **available**, a notice requesting address confirmation or correction. **The notice must**
 9 **explain that the voter's registration will be inactivated unless the voter responds**
 10 **to the notice within 45 days after the date the notice is sent. The director shall**
 11 **send the notice** to each voter

12 (1) whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in
 13 the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register;

14 (2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately
 15 preceding the examination of the register **and** [; OR (3)] who has not voted or

1 appeared to vote in the two **years** [GENERAL ELECTIONS] immediately preceding
 2 the examination of the register; **or**

3 **(3) who, after registering to vote in this state and in the two years**
 4 **immediately preceding the examination of the register, has**

5 **(A) registered to vote in another state;**

6 **(B) received a driver's license from another state;**

7 **(C) registered a vehicle in another state;**

8 **(D) received public assistance in another state;**

9 **(E) served on a jury in another state;**

10 **(F) obtained a resident hunting or fishing license in another**

11 **state; or**

12 **(G) moved to a different residence, according to**
 13 **information from the United States Postal Service national change of**
 14 **address program.**

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.130(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) If a registered voter **does** [HAS] not **respond to a notice sent under (a) of**
 17 **this section within 45 days after the date the notice is sent, the director shall**
 18 **inactivate the voter's registration** [, WITHIN THE PRECEDING FOUR
 19 CALENDAR YEARS, CONTACTED THE DIVISION AND HAS NEITHER
 20 VOTED NOR APPEARED TO VOTE IN A LOCAL, REGIONAL SCHOOL
 21 BOARD, PRIMARY, SPECIAL, OR GENERAL ELECTION DURING THE LAST
 22 FOUR CALENDAR YEARS AND A NOTICE SENT TO THE VOTER UNDER (a)
 23 OF THIS SECTION WAS RETURNED AS UNDELIVERABLE, THE VOTER
 24 SHALL BE ADVISED BY A NOTICE SENT BY FORWARDABLE MAIL TO THE
 25 VOTER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS THAT REGISTRATION WILL BE
 26 INACTIVATED UNLESS THE VOTER RESPONDS TO THE NOTICE NO
 27 LATER THAN 45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE NOTICE SENT UNDER
 28 THIS SECTION]. The director shall maintain on the master register the name of a
 29 voter whose registration is inactivated. The director shall cancel a voter's inactive
 30 registration in accordance with the procedures set out in 42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6 (sec. 8,
 31 National Voter Registration Act of 1993) after the second general election that occurs

1 after the registration becomes inactive if the voter does not contact the division or vote
2 or appear to vote.

3 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.130(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) The notice sent under (a) [(b)] of this section must include a postage
5 prepaid and pre-addressed return card on which the voter may state the voter's current
6 address. The notice must indicate

7 (1) that the voter should return the card not later than 45 days after the
8 date of the notice if the voter did not change residence;

9 (2) that failure to return the card by the 45-day deadline could result in
10 removal of the voter's name from the official registration list for a subsequent election;

11 (3) that the voter's registration will be cancelled if the voter does not
12 contact the division during, or vote or appear to vote in an election held during, the
13 period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the last day of
14 the fourth calendar year that occurs after the date of notice; and

15 (4) how the voter can continue to be eligible to vote if the voter has
16 changed residence.

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.130 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

18 (g) The division shall adopt regulations providing for regular review and
19 updates of the master register. The regulations must provide for review of the register
20 for data breaches, the number of registered voters compared to persons eligible to vote
21 in the state, and the names of deceased voters, persons convicted of a felony involving
22 moral turpitude, persons not qualified to vote under AS 15.05, and persons registered
23 to vote in another state. The regulations must specify records and databases for use in
24 reviewing the master register; the records and databases may include the United States
25 Postal Service national change of address database, an electronic registration
26 information center dedicated to improving the integrity of voter rolls and maintained
27 by a nonprofit membership organization of which the state is a member, state motor
28 vehicle records, records of the state programs of corrections, property and sales tax
29 records, records of the federal social security system, municipal assessor databases,
30 the United States Social Security Administration death index, an alien database
31 maintained by the United States Department of Homeland Security, and jury duty

1 records.

2 (h) The director shall adopt a best practice voter registration system to
3 improve identity matching when comparing the master register with the records and
4 databases used to review the master register. The director shall develop a written
5 maintenance schedule and guideline manual for the system and provide a report on the
6 system to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives on or
7 before the first day of the first regular session of each legislature and shall notify the
8 legislature that the report is available.

9 (i) The director shall, in a notice sent under (a) of this section, inform a voter
10 of the criteria to qualify as a voter and the penalties for voter misconduct.

11 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Sec. 15.07.133. Process to cancel registration.** The director shall develop a
13 process to allow a voter to cancel the voter's registration in person before an election
14 official or electronically. The director shall prominently display instructions for a
15 voter to cancel the voter's registration at each polling place.

16 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2023.