

SENATE BILL NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MYERS

Introduced: 1/10/25

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to information on judicial officers seeking retention in office."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 15.58.030(g) is amended to read:

4 (g) **Not** [NO] later than August 7 of **a** [THE] year in which the state general
5 election will be held, a person seeking retention in office as a justice or judge may file
6 with the lieutenant governor **the following information, not to exceed 300 words:**

7 **(1) a photograph;**

8 **(2) information regarding the residency of the justice or judge;**

9 **(3) information regarding the military service of the justice or**
10 **judge;**

11 **(4) information regarding the professional activities of the justice**
12 **or judge, including public outreach and administrative activities;**

13 **(5) any additional information that the justice or judge would like**
14 **published to support the justice's or judge's** [AND A STATEMENT
15 ADVOCATING THE] candidacy.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.58.050 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.58.050. Information and recommendations on judicial officers. Not [NO] later than August 7 of a [THE] year in which the state general election will be held, the judicial council shall file with the lieutenant governor a statement including information about each supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, superior court judge, and district court judge who will be subject to a retention election. The statement must [SHALL] reflect the evaluation of each justice or judge conducted by the judicial council according to law and, except for information required by law to be kept confidential, must contain, in fewer than 1,200 words total,

(1) for a superior court judge or district court judge subject to retention,

(A) a statement written by the judge, not to exceed 150 words, describing the professional philosophy of the judge;

(B) a description of the judicial, legal, or other education of the judge;

(C) a description of the business experience of and professional positions held by the judge in the preceding 10 years;

(D) a list of service organizations with which the judge is affiliated;

(E) if applicable, ratings of the judge by law enforcement officers, attorneys, court system employees, and jurors;

(F) the number of decisions by the judge that were reviewed and disposed of by a written decision of an appellate court and the percentage of issues in those decisions that were affirmed by the appellate court;

(G) a description of any public disciplinary proceedings against the judge;

(H) a self-assessment by the judge, not to exceed 250 words, evaluating the judge's judicial performance; the self-assessment may include comments on the judge's satisfaction with the judge's judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of law, growth in legal

1 knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of judicial abilities that
 2 the judge believes to be important;

3 (2) for a supreme court justice or court of appeals judge subject to
 4 retention, the information required under (1)(A) - (E), (G), and (H) of this
 5 subsection;

6 (3) for a justice or judge standing retention for the first time, a
 7 description of

8 (A) previous political and governmental positions held by
 9 the justice or judge, including any political office held;

10 (B) the justice's or judge's primary practice areas before
 11 appointment, including the approximate percentage of the justice's or
 12 judge's pre-appointment career spent as a trial lawyer;

13 (C) the types of clients the justice or judge represented
 14 before appointment [SHALL CONTAIN A BRIEF STATEMENT
 15 DESCRIBING EACH PUBLIC REPRIMAND, PUBLIC CENSURE, OR
 16 SUSPENSION RECEIVED BY THE JUDGE UNDER AS 22.30.011(d)
 17 DURING THE PERIOD COVERED IN THE EVALUATION. A
 18 STATEMENT MAY NOT EXCEED 600 WORDS].