

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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (H) a self-assessment by the judge, not to exceed 250 words,
 29 evaluating the judge's judicial performance; the self-assessment may
 30 include comments on the judge's satisfaction with the judge's judicial role,
 31 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].