

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Third Regular Session

Begun and held at Fagatogo, Tutuila, American-Samoa
on Monday, the eighth day of January
two thousand and twenty four

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING THE SELECTION PROCESS OF SENATORS TO ESTABLISH A DEADLINE BY WHICH EACH RESPECTIVE COUNTY MUST DETERMINE THEIR CANDIDATE NO LATER THAN THE ~~FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER~~ FIRST TUESDAY OF DECEMBER ON EACH GENERAL ELECTION YEAR AND TO MANDATE THAT ALL SENATORS SUBMIT THEIR QUALIFICATION CREDENTIALS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR VERIFICATION BEFORE THEY ARE SWORN IN; AMENDING SECTION 2.0203 A.S.C.A"

Preamble:

WHEREAS, under the Revised Constitution of American Samoa the Senate is comprised of traditional chiefs that are chosen according to Samoan custom. A majority rule among the members of the county council determine the Senate candidate which is a process practiced for the preservation of the land and culture; and

WHEREAS, for a more orderly process, there should be an established deadline on the ~~first day of October~~ first Tuesday of December of each general election year for the appointment of Senators from each respective county. In doing so it will allow for the proper announcement of the new Senate candidates together with the newly elected Government officials on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve the integrity of the senate selection process, the Senate candidates will be mandated to submit their qualification credentials to the Senate committee for validation before they are sworn in for duty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA:

Section 1. 2.0203 is amended to read:

"2.0203 Election-Certification of results.

(a) Senators must be elected in accordance with Samoan custom by the county councils of the county or counties they are to represent. The decision of the members of the county councils must be certified by the county chiefs of such counties ~~no later than the first day of October~~ **FIRST TUESDAY OF DECEMBER on each general election year.**

(b) Senators are mandated to present to the Senate committee the following documents for the certification process per Article II, Sec 3 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa prior to swearing in:


(1) A birth certificate verifying their U.S. National or U.S. Citizen status and age requirement.

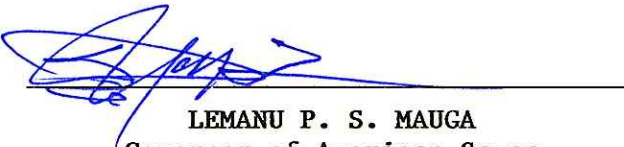
(2) A certificate of Registered Matai Title verifying matai title and proof of residency.

Sec 2. Effective date.

This act is effective immediately upon passage by the Legislature and approval by the Governor due to the need to immediately continue proper budget authority for the government.


TUAOLO MANAIA E. FRUEAN
President of the Senate


SAVALI TALAVOU ALE
Speaker, House of Representatives


LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor of American Samoa

NOFOAIGA TOLUSEFULU-VALU FONOFAITULAFONO AMERIKA SAMOA

Fono Tele Lona Tolu

Nofoia ma usua i Fagatogo, Tutuila, Amerika Samoa
Aso Gafua, aso valu o Ianuari
Lua afe luasefulufa.

O SE PILI MO SE TULAFONO E FAAULUTALAINA: "O SE TULAFONO E SUIA AI LE FAAGASOLOGA O LE FILIFILIA O SENATOA E FAAVAE AI SE TAPULAA O LE TAIMI O FILIFILIGA A ITUMALO IA LE SILIA LE ~~ASO 1 O OKETOFA~~ ASO LUA VAIASO MUAMUA O TESEMA O TAUSAGA TAITASI E FAIA AI LE PALOTA AOAQ, MA IA FAAOO MAI E SENATOA O LATOU AGAVAA I LE KOMITI A LE SENATE MO LE FAAMAONIA A O LEI FAATAUTOINA; SUIA AI LE MAGA 2.0203 T.T.A.S."

Faatomuaga:

TALUAI, i lalo o le Faavae Toe Teuteu o Amerika Samoa, o totino o le Senate (Maota Maua) e filifili mai e itumalo e tusa ai ma le aganuu a Samoa. O le sui e matele i ai le lagolago a le fono faaitumalo, o le a fai lena ma sui o le itumalo mo le Maota Maua, o se faiga e faailoa ai ma faasao fanua ma le aganuu; ma

TALUAI, ina ia sologa lelei leni faiga, e tatau ona faatapulaa i le ~~aso 1 o Oketopa~~ aso Lua vaiaso muamua o Tesema o tausaga taitasi e faia ai palotaga aoao le filifilia o Senatoa mo itumalo taitasi. O le faiga lea, o le a mafai ai ona faalauiloa aloaia sui fou o le Senate faatasi ai ma isi tagata maufi o le Malo i le Aso o le Palota; ma

TALUAI, ina ia faatumauina le faamaoni o le filifilia o sui o le Senate, o le a manaomia i latou e faaoo mai o latou agavaa i le Komiti faamaonia a le Maota a o lei faatautoina.

IA FAATULAFONOINA E LE FONOFAITULAFONO O AMERIKA SAMOA:

Maga 1. 2.0203 ua suia e faitauina faapea:

"2.0203 Palota—Faamaonia o i'uga.

(a) O Senatoa e tatau ona filifilia e tusa ai ma le aganuu faasamoa e fono faaitumalo poo itumalo ia e fai mai ai ma sui. O le faaiuga a fono faaitumalo e tatau

ona faamaonia e faalupega a le itumalo ia le silia le aso 1 o Oketopa ASO LUA VAIASO MUAMUA O TESEMA o tausaga taitasi o palotaga aoao.

(e) E manaomia Senatoa e faaoo mai o latou agavaa i le Komiti Faamaonia a le Senate e tusa ai ma le Vaega II, Maga 3 o le Faavae Toe Teuteu o Amerika Samoa a o lei oo ina faatauto:

(1) O se pepa fanau e faamaonia ai o se Nesionale poo le Sitiseni o le Iunaita Setete ma tausaga:

(2) O se pepa e faamaonia ai ua Lesitala le Suafa Matai ma faamaonia ai le suafa matai ma le faamaoniga o le mea o loo alaala ai.



TUAOLO MANAIA E. FRUEAN
Peresetene, Maota Mauualuga



SAVALI TALAVOU ALE
Pofoga Fetalai, Maota o Sui



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA

Kovana o Amerika Samoa