

# *Initiative petition drive fails to reinstate death penalty*

Following a year-long drive, sponsors of an initiative petition have failed to get enough signatures in their efforts to reinstate the death penalty in Alaska.

The petition has been ruled "insufficient" and "void," according to information released by Lt. Gov. Stephen McAlpine's office. The petition was more than 7,000 signatures short of the required number to get the issue of capital punishment before

voters.

Marion Butcher, executive director of the Alaska American Civil Liberties Union in Anchorage, said she was pleased with the failure.

The Territorial Legislature abolished the death penalty in Alaska in 1950. Over the past 36 years, the Legislature has repeatedly rejected bills to reinstate the death penalty.

The statewide initiative petition was sponsored by Alaskans for Justice.