A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to absences from the state for purposes of eligibility for permanent fund dividends to care for a terminally ill parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild; to care for a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild with a critical life-threatening illness whose treatment plan, as recommended by the attending physician, requires travel outside the state for treatment at a medical specialty complex; and to settle the estate of a deceased parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that care of a terminally ill individual by a member of that individual’s immediate family is a socially beneficial and, in this time of escalating health care costs, economically efficient measure. It is the intent of the legislature to provide support to the families in this state during times of bereavement and to encourage residents to provide personal care for terminally ill family members.
Sec. 2. AS 43.23.095(8) is amended to read:

(8) "state resident" means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain permanently in the state under the requirements of AS 01.10.055 or, if the individual is not physically present in the state, intends to return to the state and remain permanently in the state under the requirements of AS 01.10.055, and is absent only for any of the following reasons:

(A) vocational, professional, or other specific education for which a comparable program was not reasonably available in the state;

(B) secondary or postsecondary education;

(C) military service;

(D) medical treatment;

(E) service in Congress;

(F) other reasons which the commissioner may establish by regulation; [OR]

(G) service in the Peace Corps;

(H) to care for the individual’s terminally ill parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild;

(I) for up to 220 days to settle the estate of the individual’s deceased parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild; or

(J) to care for a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild with a critical life-threatening illness whose treatment plan, as recommended by the attending physician, requires travel outside the state for treatment at a medical specialty complex;

Sec. 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 1997.