

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Click Bishop

Sponsor Statement Alaska Permanent Fund Education Raffle CSSB 78(Fin) 30-LS0534(E)

SB 78 sets up an education raffle as a fun way to raise money for a good cause: supporting Alaska students in the classroom.

It is a new approach to help solve Alaska's fiscal problems and address concerns about education funding.

Statewide surveys show that more than 60 percent of Alaskans believe education needs more or continued levels state funding.

SB 78 does just that.

The legislation creates a Permanent Fund Education Raffle and Education Endowment Fund and provides an opportunity to contribute to Alaska's Public Education Fund.

Alaskans can donate all or part of their Permanent Fund Dividend in a manner similar to the familiar "Click. Pick. Give." program. Participants who only use paper applications will also be able to donate. When they help raise money for education through a donation from their PFD check, they also have a chance to win a percentage of the total money donated through an education raffle.

Alaskans have a long history of involvement with games of chance and gambling. Under current law, there are many games of chance exempted from Alaska's gambling laws. Raffles, lotteries, bingo games, race classics, fishing classics, deep-freeze classics, Calcutta pools, and big bull derbies are but a few.

SB 78 follows in that tradition and channels that enthusiasm into a worthy cause: education.