

REPRESENTATIVE
ERIC FEIGE
House District 12

House Resources Committee Co-Chair
Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives

During Session:
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799
1-888-465-4859

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 190

An Act relating to the allowable absence for active duty service members of the armed forces for purposes of permanent fund dividend eligibility.

With great dismay, on February 13, 2011, I, along with other members of the legislature, received an e-mail from Lt. Cmdr. Tiko Crofoot about the denial of his Permanent Fund Dividend. An Alaskan, who joined the U.S. Navy, Lt. Cmdr. Crofoot has been stationed outside of Alaska for more than ten years. Military service is an allowable absence for continuation of eligibility of a Permanent Fund Dividend. The justification for the denial occurs only because Lt. Cmdr. Crofoot and others have sacrificed not just three, five, or seven years serving our country, but have made a career serving our country in the armed forces.

According to current statute, anyone on an approved absence from the state, except members of Congress, congressional staff, and their families, is denied a permanent fund dividend after ten years of absence from the state.

Although these individuals choose to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, once they are sworn into service, they do not have the option to choose to be physically present in Alaska. It is time to correct this injustice and allow Alaska residents who decide to join the military the opportunity to continue to receive their deserved Permanent Fund Dividend.

We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.

Winston Churchill