

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 233(L&C) am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**Amended: 4/27/22**

**Offered: 4/12/22**

**Sponsor(s): SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to allowable absences for permanent fund dividend qualification; and**  
2   **providing for an effective date."**

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

4    \* **Section 1.** AS 43.23.008(a) is amended to read:

5           (a) Subject to (b) and (d) of this section, an otherwise eligible individual who  
6           is absent from the state during the qualifying year remains eligible for a current year  
7           permanent fund dividend if the individual was absent

8                   (1) receiving secondary or postsecondary education on a full-time  
9           basis;

10                   (2) receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a  
11           full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary  
12           Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state;

13                   (3) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the  
14           United States or accompanying, as that individual's spouse, minor dependent, or

1 disabled dependent, an individual who is

2 (A) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of  
3 the United States; and

4 (B) eligible for a current year dividend;

5 (4) serving under foreign or coastal articles of employment aboard an  
6 oceangoing vessel of the United States merchant marine **or attending a vocational**  
7 **program that**

8 **(A) trains students for a career in the United States**  
9 **merchant marine, including as a sea engineer, in the deck department, or**  
10 **as a steward;**

11 **(B) provides seagoing service that meets the requirements**  
12 **of the United States Coast Guard for United States merchant marine**  
13 **credentialing; and**

14 **(C) is approved by the United States Coast Guard;**

15 (5) receiving continuous medical treatment recommended by a  
16 licensed physician or convalescing as recommended by the physician who treated the  
17 illness if the treatment or convalescence is not based on a need for climatic change;

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

22 (7) providing care for the individual's terminally ill family member;

23 (8) settling the estate of the individual's deceased parent, spouse,  
24 sibling, child, or stepchild, provided the absence does not exceed 220 cumulative days;

25 (9) serving as a member of the United States Congress;

26 (10) serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United  
27 States Congress;

28 (11) serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other  
29 location;

30 (12) accompanying a minor who is absent under (5) of this subsection;

31 (13) accompanying another eligible resident who is absent for a reason

permitted under (1), (2), (5) - (12), (16), or (17) of this subsection as the spouse, minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident;

(14) serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program;

(15) because of training or competing as a member of the United States Olympic Team or a United States national team for an Olympic sport;

(16) participating for educational purposes in a student fellowship sponsored by the United States Department of Education or by the United States Department of State;

(17) for any reason consistent with the individual's intent to remain a state resident, provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed

(A) 180 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences claimed under (3) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an absence under (1), (2), or (4) - (16) of this subsection;

(B) 120 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences claimed under (1) - (3) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an absence under (4) - (16) of this subsection but is claiming an absence under (1) or (2) of this subsection; or

(C) 45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences claimed under (1) - (16) of this subsection if the individual is claiming an absence under (4) - (16) of this subsection.

**\* Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.011 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) An otherwise eligible individual may apply for a current year dividend after March 31 and before October 1 of that year if the individual was eligible during the application period under (a) of this section and the individual's parent, guardian, or other authorized representative failed to claim a dividend on behalf of the individual because the parent, guardian, or authorized representative had a medical emergency that prevented the parent, guardian, or authorized representative from applying by March 31.

**\* Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2023.