

HOUSE BILL NO. 295

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCCABE, Fields, Himschoot

Introduced: 2/6/26

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent fund dividend;**
2 **and 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; on a break or holiday from a secondary or postsecondary educational institution
10 during an academic year, not including summer break, if the individual is enrolled in
11 and attends the educational institution on a full-time basis before and after the break or
12 holiday; or in an orientation program required as a condition of the secondary or
13 postsecondary education and the individual immediately begins the education on a
14 full-time basis after the completion of the orientation;

1 (2) receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a
2 full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
3 Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state; on a break or
4 holiday from the vocational, professional, or other specific training, not including
5 summer break, if the individual is enrolled in and attends the training on a full-time
6 basis before and after the break or holiday; or in an orientation program required as a
7 condition of the vocational, professional, or other specific training and the individual
8 immediately begins the training on a full-time basis after the completion of the
9 orientation;

10 (3) serving on active duty as a member of the uniformed services of
11 the United States or accompanying, as that individual's spouse, minor dependent, or
12 disabled dependent, an individual who is

13 (A) serving on active duty as a member of the uniformed
14 services of the United States; and

15 (B) eligible for a current year dividend;

16 (4) serving under foreign or coastal articles of employment aboard an
17 oceangoing vessel of the United States Merchant Marine or attending a vocational
18 program that

19 (A) trains students for a career in the United States Merchant
20 Marine;

21 (B) provides seagoing service that meets the requirements of
22 the United States Coast Guard for United States Merchant Marine
23 credentialing; and

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

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

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

- 1 (7) providing care for the individual's terminally ill family member;
- 2 (8) settling the estate of the individual's deceased parent, spouse,
- 3 sibling, child, or stepchild, provided the absence does not exceed 220 cumulative days;
- 4 (9) serving as a member of the United States Congress;
- 5 (10) serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United
- 6 States Congress;
- 7 (11) serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other
- 8 location;
- 9 (12) accompanying a minor who is absent under (5) of this subsection;
- 10 (13) accompanying another eligible resident who is absent for a reason
- 11 permitted under (1), (2), (5) - (12), (16), or **(18)** [(17)] of this subsection as the spouse,
- 12 minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident;
- 13 (14) serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program;
- 14 (15) because of training or competing as a member of the United States
- 15 Olympic Team or a United States national team for an Olympic sport;
- 16 (16) participating for educational purposes in a student fellowship
- 17 sponsored by the United States Department of Education or by the United States
- 18 Department of State;
- 19 (17) **serving as a pilot for a United States airline certified as an air**
- 20 **carrier by the Federal Aviation Administration;**
- 21 **(18)** for any reason consistent with the individual's intent to remain a
- 22 state resident, provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed
- 23 (A) 180 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
- 24 claimed
- 25 (i) under (3) of this subsection if the individual is not
- 26 claiming an absence under (1), (2), or **(4) - (17)** [(4) - (16)] of this
- 27 subsection; or
- 28 (ii) under (5) of this subsection if the individual is not
- 29 claiming an absence under (1) - (4) or **(6) - (17)** [(6) - (16)] of this
- 30 subsection;
- 31 (B) 120 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences

1 claimed under (1) - (3) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an
2 absence under (4) - (17) [(4) - (16)] of this subsection but is claiming an
3 absence under (1) or (2) of this subsection; or

4 (C) 45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
5 claimed under (1) - (17) [(1) - (16)] of this subsection if the individual is
6 claiming an absence under (4) - (17) [(4) - (16)] of this subsection.

7 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.