



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Revenue

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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March 13, 2026

The Honorable Ashley Carrick
House State Affairs, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Carrick,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with responses to the questions posed to the Department of Revenue (DOR) regarding House Bill 189 in the House State Affairs Committee on March 10, 2026. Please see the questions in italics and our responses immediately below the questions.

1. *Provide clarification on the fund source and the prior year liability reserve.*

There is no separate reserve “fund” for prior year dividends; rather, the reserve is a part of the calculation of the dividend amount. Per statute, the calculation takes the current amount in the fund and subtracts, or reserves, amounts necessary to pay prior obligations, including prior year dividends for which potential recipients have successfully applied, but have not yet been paid. This calculation also reserves estimated amounts to pay prior year dividends for individuals who qualify to apply late under provisions in statute, primarily those who were under 18 during the application period(s).

This bill would create a new category of individual eligible to submit an application after the current statutory application deadline, which would increase the amount necessary to reserve for prior year dividends. This increase in reserve would reduce the amount available to pay current year dividends, which would either reduce the dividend amount if a set amount is appropriated to the fund, or would increase the amount necessary to appropriate to the fund if the Legislature appropriates an amount necessary to pay a certain dividend amount.

As required under AS 43.23.048(a), the department transfers from the Dividend Fund to the Restorative Justice Account an amount equal to the amount that would have otherwise been paid to individuals who were ineligible to receive dividends under AS 43.23.005(d). The

Legislature makes appropriations from the Restorative Justice Account as designated by the statute, including appropriations to the Crime Victim Compensation Fund, the Office of Victims' Rights, grants to nonprofit organizations for crime victims and domestic violence and sexual assault programs, grants for mental health services, and to the Department of Corrections for costs related to incarceration or probation.

There is currently no provision in statute, nor does House Bill 189 create such a provision, to return any amounts from the Restorative Justice Account to the Dividend Fund for any individuals whose convictions were later overturned. As such, any dividends paid to individuals under the provisions of House Bill 189 would be in addition to amounts already transferred to the Restorative Justice Account for years during which they were disqualified from receiving dividends under AS 43.23.005(d).

2. Provide the prior year liability portion of the PFD calculation for the last ten years.

2024: \$1,700,754.53

2023: \$1,707,719.81

2022: \$566,661.73

2021: \$162,035.57

2020: \$618,948.33

2019: \$297,051.39

2018: \$223,817.27

2017: \$180,335.59

2016: \$233,438.95

2015: \$255,218.83

2014: \$227,426.85

3. Provide the average number of individuals who have appealed their permanent fund dividend (PFD) denial over the last ten years.

2,171.45 is the combined average number of Informal and Formal appeals between 2014-2024.

From PFD's annual reports:

Dividend Year	Total Informal Appeals	Total Formal Appeals
2024	2,800	106
2023	2,944	192
2022	2,320	85
2021	2,102	43
2020	3,141	124
2019	4,003	135
2018	4,048	154
2017	4,113	157
2016	4,114	122
2015	3,860	151
2014	2,646	111

PFD's annual reports are available here: [Permanent Fund Dividend - Annual Reports](#)

Please let me know if the department can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Janelle L. Earls
Acting Commissioner

cc: Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Lacey Sanders, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Genevieve Wojtusik, Director, PFDD