

34-LS1126\G
Nauman
3/17/26

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 255(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE STAPP

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to permanent fund dividend raffles; creating the senior citizen grants**
2 **dividend raffle fund; authorizing donations from permanent fund dividends for entry**
3 **into the senior citizen grants dividend raffle; relating to appropriations from the senior**
4 **citizen grants dividend raffle fund; relating to the duties of the Department of Revenue;**
5 **relating to the definition of 'gambling'; and relating to the Alaska senior benefits**
6 **payment program."**

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

8 * **Section 1.** AS 11.66.280(3) is amended to read:

9 (3) "gambling" means that a person stakes or risks something of value
10 upon the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event not under the
11 person's control or influence, upon an agreement or understanding that that person or
12 someone else will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome;
13 "gambling" does not include

1 (A) bona fide business transactions valid under the law of
 2 contracts for the purchase or sale at a future date of securities or commodities
 3 and agreements to compensate for loss caused by the happening of chance,
 4 including contracts of indemnity or guaranty and life, health, or accident
 5 insurance;

6 (B) playing an amusement device that

7 (i) confers only an immediate right of replay not
 8 exchangeable for something of value other than the privilege of
 9 immediate replay and does not contain a method or device by which the
 10 privilege of immediate replay may be cancelled or revoked;

11 (ii) confers only tickets, credits, allowances, tokens, or
 12 anything of value that can be redeemed for toys, candy, or electronic
 13 novelties offered at the same facility where the amusement device is
 14 located; or

15 (iii) allows a player to manipulate a claw machine or
 16 similar device within an enclosure and enables a person to receive
 17 merchandise directly from the machine;

18 (C) an activity authorized by the Department of Revenue under
 19 AS 05.15; or

20 (D) a [THE] permanent fund dividend raffle authorized under
 21 AS 43.23.230 or 43.23.235;

22 * **Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.055 is amended to read:

23 **Sec. 43.23.055. Duties of the department.** The department shall

24 (1) annually pay permanent fund dividends from the dividend fund;

25 (2) subject to AS 43.23.011 and (8) of this section, adopt regulations
 26 under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) that establish procedures and time
 27 limits for claiming a permanent fund dividend; the department shall determine the
 28 number of eligible applicants by October 1 of the year for which the dividend is
 29 declared and pay the dividends by December 31 of that year;

30 (3) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act)
 31 that establish procedures and time limits for an individual upon emancipation or upon

1 reaching majority to apply for permanent fund dividends not received during minority
2 because the parent, guardian, or other authorized representative did not apply on
3 behalf of the individual;

4 (4) assist residents of the state, particularly in rural areas, who, because
5 of language, disability, or inaccessibility to public transportation, need assistance to
6 establish eligibility and to apply for permanent fund dividends;

7 (5) use a list of individuals ineligible for a dividend under
8 AS 43.23.005(d) provided annually by the Department of Corrections and the
9 Department of Public Safety to determine the number and identity of those
10 individuals;

11 (6) adopt regulations that are necessary to implement AS 43.23.005(d)
12 and 43.23.048;

13 (7) adopt regulations that establish procedures for the parent, guardian,
14 or other authorized representative of a disabled individual to apply for prior year
15 permanent fund dividends not received by the disabled individual because no
16 application was submitted on behalf of the individual;

17 (8) adopt regulations that establish procedures for an individual to
18 apply to have a dividend disbursement under AS 37.25.050(a)(2) reissued if it is not
19 collected within two years after the date of its issuance; however, the department may
20 not establish a time limit within which an application to have a disbursement reissued
21 must be filed;

22 (9) provide any information, upon request, contained in permanent
23 fund dividend records to the child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010, or
24 the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child support purposes
25 authorized under law; if the information is contained in an electronic data base, the
26 department shall provide the requesting agency with either

27 (A) access to the data base; or

28 (B) a copy of the information in the data base and a statement
29 certifying its contents;

30 (10) establish a fraud investigation unit for the purpose of assisting the

31 (A) Department of Law in the prosecution of individuals who

1 apply for or obtain a permanent fund dividend in violation of a provision in
2 AS 11, by detecting and investigating those crimes; and

3 (B) commissioner to detect and investigate the claiming or
4 paying of permanent fund dividends that should not have been claimed by or
5 paid to an individual and to impose the penalties and enforcement provisions
6 under AS 43.23.270;

7 (11) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act)
8 so that contributions **made** under AS 43.23.130 are given a priority over donations
9 **made** under AS 43.23.230 **and 43.23.235 and that donations made under**
10 **AS 43.23.230 are given priority over donations made under AS 43.23.235**, if the
11 total amount of contributions and donations elected by an applicant exceeds the
12 amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive;

13 (12) submit fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety
14 for a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400 for the purpose of
15 determining a person's qualifications and suitability for administering the permanent
16 fund dividend program under this chapter.

17 * **Sec. 3.** AS 43.23.230(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) The **education** dividend raffle fund is established as an account in the
19 general fund. The commissioner shall manage the fund. Interest and other income
20 received on money in the fund shall be separately accounted for and shall be
21 appropriated to the fund. The fund consists of donations appropriated to the fund
22 under (c) of this section. The commissioner shall use the **education** dividend raffle
23 fund, without further appropriation, to pay for prizes as set out in (d) of this section
24 and may use up to two percent of the balance of the fund but not more than \$500,000
25 from the fund each fiscal year to pay the cost of administering the fund and for
26 promotion and advertisement of the fund. When the balance of the **education** dividend
27 raffle fund exceeds \$300,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the commissioner shall
28 transfer the amount above \$300,000,000 to the education endowment fund established
29 in AS 43.23.220. Money donated to the fund does not lapse.

30 * **Sec. 4.** AS 43.23.230(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.200, the department shall provide on the Alaska

1 permanent fund dividend application an option for an applicant who is 18 years of age
2 or older to direct that all or a portion of the applicant's dividend payment be donated
3 for educational purposes and to enter the education [PERMANENT FUND] dividend
4 raffle as provided in (d) [(c)] of this section. A donation under this section may be
5 \$100 or more, in increments of \$100, up to the total amount of the permanent fund
6 dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive.

7 * **Sec. 5.** AS 43.23.230(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) Of the donations received in a year under (b) of this section, the legislature
9 shall appropriate 25 percent to the education endowment fund established in
10 AS 43.23.220 and shall appropriate 25 percent to the education dividend raffle fund.
11 The legislature shall appropriate the remaining 50 percent of the donations received
12 under (b) of this section to the Department of Education and Early Development for
13 distribution as supplemental grants to school districts according to the average daily
14 membership for each district adjusted under AS 14.17.410(b)(1)(A) - (D).

15 * **Sec. 6.** AS 43.23.230(d) is amended to read:

16 (d) At the beginning of each year, the commissioner shall conduct a public
17 drawing to award prizes from the education dividend raffle fund. Each \$100 donation
18 as provided in (b) of this section entitles a person to one entry into the raffle. The
19 prizes for the raffle shall be as follows:

20 (1) the first name drawn receives an amount equal to eight percent of
21 the balance of the education dividend raffle fund;

22 (2) the second name drawn receives an amount equal to four percent of
23 the balance of the education dividend raffle fund;

24 (3) the third name drawn receives an amount equal to two percent of
25 the balance of the education dividend raffle fund; and

26 (4) the fourth name drawn receives an amount equal to one percent of
27 the balance of the education dividend raffle fund.

28 * **Sec. 7.** AS 43.23 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

29 **Sec. 43.23.235. Senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund; dividend**
30 **donations to the fund; drawing.** (a) The senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund is
31 established as an account in the general fund. The commissioner shall manage the

1 fund. Interest and other income received on money in the fund shall be separately
2 accounted for and shall be appropriated to the fund. The fund consists of donations
3 appropriated to the fund under (c) of this section. The commissioner shall use the
4 senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund, without further appropriation, to pay for
5 prizes as set out in (d) of this section and may use up to two percent of the balance of
6 the fund but not more than \$500,000 from the fund each fiscal year to pay the cost of
7 administering the fund and for promotion and advertisement of the fund. Money
8 donated to the fund does not lapse.

9 (b) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.200, the department shall provide on the Alaska
10 permanent fund dividend application an option for an applicant who is 18 years of age
11 or older to direct that all or a portion of the applicant's dividend payment be donated
12 for senior citizen grants and to enter the senior citizen grants dividend raffle as
13 provided in (d) of this section. A donation under this section may be \$100 or more, in
14 increments of \$100, up to the total amount of the permanent fund dividend that the
15 applicant is entitled to receive.

16 (c) Of the donations received in a year under (b) of this section, the legislature
17 shall appropriate

18 (1) 37.5 percent for benefits paid under the Alaska senior benefits
19 payment program established under AS 47.45.301 - 47.45.309;

20 (2) 25 percent to the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund;

21 (3) 37.5 percent to the Department of Health for distribution as grants,
22 as follows:

23 (A) 50 percent to organizations that deliver meals to the homes
24 of seniors;

25 (B) 25 percent to organizations that provide transportation
26 services to seniors;

27 (C) 25 percent to organizations that provide supportive housing
28 services to seniors.

29 (d) At the beginning of each year, the commissioner shall conduct a public
30 drawing to award prizes from the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund. Each \$100
31 donation as provided in (b) of this section entitles a person to one entry into the raffle.

1 The prizes for the raffle shall be as follows:

2 (1) the first name drawn receives an amount equal to eight percent of
3 the balance of the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund;

4 (2) the second name drawn receives an amount equal to four percent of
5 the balance of the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund;

6 (3) the third name drawn receives an amount equal to two percent of
7 the balance of the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund; and

8 (4) the fourth name drawn receives an amount equal to one percent of
9 the balance of the senior citizen grants dividend raffle fund.

10 (e) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

11 * **Sec. 8.** AS 47.45.302(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) An eligible individual shall receive a monthly cash assistance payment
13 [BEGINNING ON AUGUST 1, 2007,] as follows:

14 (1) **\$300** [\$250] if the individual's household income does not exceed
15 75 percent of the federal poverty line for Alaska;

16 (2) **\$225** [\$175] if the individual's household income does not exceed
17 100 percent but is above 75 percent of the federal poverty line for Alaska;

18 (3) **\$175** [\$125] if the individual's household income does not exceed
19 175 percent but is above 100 percent of the federal poverty line for Alaska.

20 * **Sec. 9.** Section 4, ch. 1, FSSLA 2007, as amended by sec. 5, ch. 6, SLA 2011, sec. 1, ch.
21 113, SLA 2014, sec. 1, ch. 8, SLA 2018, and sec. 18, ch. 12, SLA 2024, is repealed.

22 * **Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
23 read:

24 APPLICABILITY. (a) AS 43.23.235, added by sec. 7 of this Act, applies to a
25 permanent fund dividend applied for on or after January 1, 2027.

26 (b) AS 47.45.302(b), as amended by sec. 8 of this Act, applies to a monthly cash
27 assistance payment made on or after the effective date of this Act.