

[REDACTED]

From: Karl Rodvik [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. George Rauscher
Subject: HB 93 Violates Established Residency Standards Using PFD Rules and Denies Article VIII Constitutional Rights to Residents

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Breanna

Good Afternoon Senators,

I appreciate you taking the time to gather public feedback on HB 93. Senator Kawasaki directed me to send my concerns to the Senate Resource Committee as well.

Upon further research, I have identified fundamental statutory and constitutional issues with HB 93 that I believe warrant deep review by the Senate. Below is my simple summary of the issues at hand.

HB 93 creates a substantial constitutional concern under Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution by conditioning resident hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges on compliance with Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) allowable absence rules. In effect, the bill converts a cash-benefit eligibility standard into a residency disqualification and uses that disqualification to deny Alaskans access to constitutionally protected fish and wildlife resources.

Put plainly, HB 93 treats Alaskans who are denied or forgo the PFD as nonresidents for hunting and fishing, even though Alaska law otherwise continues to recognize them as residents. This redefines residency by proxy, using dividend eligibility as the controlling test without amending Alaska's general residency law.

Alaska's established residency framework:

Residency in Alaska is defined by domicile and intent, not annual physical presence.

15 AAC 23.143 establishes residency through intent to remain indefinitely in Alaska, maintenance of Alaska ties, and the absence of residency claims elsewhere. Extended absences do not automatically terminate residency, and physical presence alone is not determinative. Alaska law expressly allows a person to remain a resident while being denied certain benefits.

PFD law is a separate and narrower standard:

The PFD statutes impose an additional and intentionally restrictive test for a single purpose only, determining eligibility for a cash dividend.

AS 43.23.008 and 15 AAC 23.163 govern allowable absences solely for PFD eligibility. Alaska law has long and deliberately allowed residents to lose the PFD without losing residency.

What HB 93 changes:

HB 93 amends AS 16.05.415(a)(3) to require that resident hunting and fishing eligibility comply with AS 43.23.008.

This collapses the two systems and effectively creates a new rule: failure to meet PFD allowable-absence requirements results in nonresident status for hunting and fishing.

This is not an individualized hardship issue. It is a class-wide reclassification of residents. Those affected include rotational workers, pilots, maritime officers (like myself), healthcare professionals, frequent travelers, and long-time Alaskans who knowingly exceed PFD absence limits while maintaining Alaska as their domicile.

Constitutional implications under Article VIII:

Article VIII guarantees common use and equal access to fish and wildlife resources for all Alaskans, subject only to uniform and reasonable regulation.

By altering the residency gateway without revising Article VIII standards or providing a uniform access rationale, HB 93 risks denying Article VIII rights to individuals Alaska law otherwise recognizes as residents, creating non-uniform classifications among residents, and conditioning constitutional resource access on eligibility for an unrelated cash benefit.

Core issue for review:

Alaska law allows residents to lose PFD eligibility without losing residency. HB 93 erases that distinction by using dividend eligibility as a proxy for residency, with direct constitutional implications for Article VIII hunting and fishing rights.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration and hope this analysis is helpful as the Senate continues its review of HB 93.

I will do my best to continue to raise awareness.

Respectfully,

Karl Rodvik
Dynamic Positioning Operator - Transocean
U.S.C.G. Second Mate Unlimited

HOUSE BILL 93
OPPOSE As Written
2/12/26

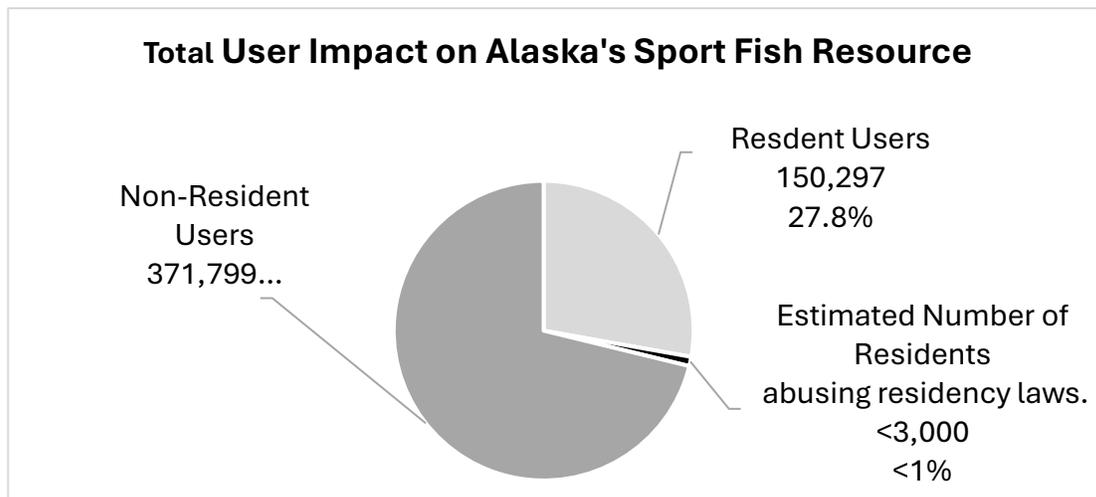
Dear Senators,

HB 93 does not meet the basic threshold of documenting that there is a need. Sponsors have not provided facts or hard evidence to prove or quantify a need. Their justification is anecdotal. Anecdotal by definition means, **“not necessarily true or reliable, because it’s based on personal accounts rather than facts or research”**.

Stated Purpose of HB 93: To reduce pressure (harvest levels) on the sport fishing and hunting resource by restricting resident access of those residents who only spend a month or two in-state annually, including retirees. The impetus for this concern comes primarily from Southeast Alaska communities regarding the fish resource.

Sponsors have not provided material facts or sources that quantify the alleged abuse. They are claiming a need based on a guess. **So how many residents fall under HB 93’s stated purpose? 100, 200, 500, 2000, you pick the number.** Surely there are less than 3000 residents that own live aboard boats or homes in Alaska but only come up to fish and hunt as residents.

According to Alaska Fish and Game in 2024 there were 371,799 non-resident sport fishing licenses sold in Alaska and 150,297 resident licenses, including senior resident permits. For a total of 522,096 people fishing in Alaska’s waters. HB 93 is targeting less than an estimated 3000 users, a statistically insignificant impact on the resource. Yet its impact will strip over 100,000 law abiding residence of their fish and game privileges.



HB 93 Impact on Residents:

HB 93 requires that an Alaskan resident qualify for the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) (AS 43.23.008) to be able to hunt and fish as an Alaska resident.

- Alaska's population is about 740,000 residents.
- In 2025 Alaska issued approximately 600,000 PFDs.
- That leaves about 140,000 Alaskan residents that did not receive a PFD.
- Failure to qualify is the primary reason for not receiving a PFD.
- Now apply PFD requirements to resident hunting and fishing.
- Allowing for 40,000 first year residents and those who did not want to apply.
- HB 93 will now disqualify about an additional 100,000 residents from resident fishing and hunting privileges, privileges they currently have under current law.

HB 93 "Sponsor Statement" says:

"Importantly, this bill does not change the bag and possession limits for out-of-state hunters or fisherman who come to Alaska to participate in the state's well-managed hunts and fisheries."

- Sponsors want you to believe that the estimated <3000 resident abuses are damaging the resource but that **371,799 non-residents hauling fish out of state**, are fine and of no consequences.
- Sponsors want you to believe that the managers of the **"states well-managed hunts and fisheries"** can manage over a half million users annually but are incapable of managing a statistically insignificant number of users in a localized area.
- Sponsors want you to believe that a problem is so large that the legislature must step in and **strip over 100,000 residents of their resident fish and game privileges**, their freedom of movement between states, and their access to a "public trust wildlife resource". Many of these residents are long-time Alaskans who have and continue to provide significant economic and social benefits to Alaska.

Non-residents haul more fish out of state each year than all Alaskan residents catch. HB 93 pits Alaskan resident users against each other and undoubtedly will drive some to move out of state.

HB 93's logic is, if you don't spend as much time in state as we want you to willingly, we will force you to by taking away the very reason you are here in the first place; your wildlife resources and way of life.

Sincerely,

Ken Vorisek
Past Advisory Committee Member
53 Year Consumptive Use Resident



2/12/26

HB 93-OPPOSE

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

I opposed HB 93 because it is a repressive bill, will complicate enforcement, and will primarily affect productive law-abiding Alaska residents.

I am a retired Alaska State Trooper (Detective), who has been involved in the investigation of over 80 homicides and countless other criminal investigations during my career. I am currently an outdoor writer, photographer, and grandpa.

I disagree that HB 93 will make it easier to enforce the current fish and game residency law (AS 16.05.415). Under current law, there are 4 primary requirements for establishing residency (sec. 1-4). HB 93 will be adding a 5th lengthy requirement: the provisions in AS 43.23.008.

When it comes to enforcement, simplicity and clarity make laws easier to enforce. Adding requirements complicates the law and increases the work required to verify compliance. I fail to see how placing new requirements on a significant number of law-abiding residents simplifies anything; it will only require more scrutiny of more people.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,
James "Jim" McCann
Sgt., Alaska State Trooper (ret.)
54-year Resident of Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Jim Lavrakas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: Testimony on HB93

Mr Chair, and members of the committee. I'm Jim Lavrakas, a 50-year Alaska resident. I live in Homer and am testifying today, for myself, in opposition to the passage of House Bill 93.

Since 2023 my wife Ruth and I have spent the winters in Sequim, WA because it is far safer than trying to stay upright on Homer's tricky streets and parking lots with its "freeze and thaw" cycles of wintery weather that are a challenge for us.

We are snowbirds, and typically leave Alaska at the end of September and return in May. We do not get a PFD, but continue to own a home in Homer, we vote in Homer, pay utilities in Homer, own a vehicle and boat in Homer, have Alaska drivers licenses, and have permanent Alaska hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. We are tied to Alaska by immediate family members (my sons and a brother) and our love for Alaska.

We pay non-resident property taxes in Washington, along with paying non-resident rates for hunting and fishing.

I believe tying residency requirements to the PFD is restrictive and appears to violate my Constitutional right to move freely where I want, when I want.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees a fundamental right to freedom of movement and interstate travel, primarily protected through the Privileges and Immunities Clause of Article IV, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Commerce Clause. It ensures citizens can move freely between states and receive equal treatment.

Alaska has inconsistent requirements for residency, for voting, for getting a drivers license, and hunting and fishing licensing. For residency, the main requirement is the "intent" to remain in Alaska. How can intent be proved?

Alaska residency requires being physically present in the state with the intent to remain indefinitely, often defined as establishing a permanent home and severing ties with previous states. Intent is demonstrated through actions like obtaining an Alaska driver's license, registering to vote, or securing housing.

I believe I have shown this intent by the existence of all the things I mentioned that binds me to Alaska.

There are issues with this bill that may also make it a violation of my rights to "equal access" to resources guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution.

If nonresidents are taking unfair numbers of fish and wildlife, while pretending to be residents, I believe this is a resource management issue, which should be handled by the Department of Fish and Game. A solution might be that when applying for a resident hunting and fishing license, vendors would be required to see proof of those primary things needed to get an Alaska drivers license: a permanent address linked to their name, proof of a bank account or a utility bill.

Tying this issue to PFD qualifications is a rabbit hole down which the state dares not go. In my case, I have an Alaska driver's license, vote here, own a home, but I don't get a PFD. Am I no longer a resident?

So, for these reasons, which I believe are serious and important, I ask you to kill this bill. Thank you.

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Jim Lavrakas
[REDACTED]

From: Sen. Matt Claman
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:58 PM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: FW: HB 93

From: Gary Hollier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; senator.bill.wieiechowski@akleg.gov; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Yundt <Sen.Robert.Yundt@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 93

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Dear State of Alaska legislators,

I apologize for this confusing email, but this is a very important issue to me.

I am a 72 year life long resident of Alaska.

I was born in Seward and raised in Kenai.

I have received every PFD since its inception.

My commercial fishing business of 56 years is in Kenai.

My two Sub S Corporations are registered in the State of Alaska, and operate in the Kenai area.

My two children and five grandchildren are residents of the State of Alaska.

I am totally AGAINST HB 93, which requires PFD eligibility to receive a State of Alaska resident sport, hunting, and trapping license.

I travel to other States in the United States of America.

If I am gone for 180 days from the State I am eligible for resident hunting and fishing. If I am gone for 181 days I am not!

I get ZERO benefits from another State!

In the PDF application that ask certain questions.

That I answer NO to all of them.

I do not vote in another State.

I vote in Alaska!

I do not file taxes in another State.

I file taxes in Alaska!

I do not have a vehicle registered in another State.

All my vehicles are registered in Alaska!

I do not apply for any sport or hunting licenses as a resident in another State.

I qualify for a permanent State hunting and fishing and trapping licenses in Alaska!

I do not work in another State.

I still commercial fish in Alaska!

I do not apply for any benefits of any type from another State.

Where should I be eligible to receive resident sport hunting and fishing licenses, if I am not eligible in Alaska?

Yes I vacation to other States, but my full time primary residence is 36045 Reef Dr Kenai, Ak.

Many legislators “campaign “ as fiscal conservatives, it I feel that HB 93 adds another layer of government that is all ready covered under State statues.

Please do not pass HB 93

Thank you,
Gary L Hollier
Kenai, Ak



Breanna Kakaruk

From: Eric & Rio [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Senate Judiciary; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot
Subject: Written Testimony HB 93

I have been a resident of Alaska for over 20 years and served in the Air National Guard and worked as an airline pilot. Proving residency for certain licenses and the PFD often requires extensive proof since these jobs take me, and many others, out of the state. Most pilots work half the month. As Alaska is geographically isolated, many of those flights take pilots beyond the geographic borders of Alaska. Most airline headquarters are also based outside of Alaska. Our recurring training takes us out of state as well. Despite our job demands, Alaska is home. We pay our property taxes, own our homes and school our children in Alaska. HB 93 seems to further restrict many pilots from filing for certain licenses and benefits even though they are full time residents. I certainly agree that residents should be protected from those that seek to abuse residency requirements, but our elected officials should be protecting legal and legitimate residents.

Thank you,
Eric Barlow