

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR KEVIN MEYER
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SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 171

“An Act relating to the permanent fund dividend of an otherwise qualified individual who dies during the qualifying year; and providing for an effective date.”

CSSB 171 grants eligible Alaskans their last Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD).

This legislation would provide for the issuance of a PFD check to a personal representative of an estate or successor claiming the personal property of the deceased should an individual die during the qualifying year.

The deceased individual would need to meet all of the eligibility requirements, have received a dividend for the year immediately before the qualifying year, and have been a resident for at least 180 days immediately before the date of death.

Currently, if an Alaskan dies during the PFD application process, a family member or their estate may apply on behalf of the deceased. However, if a lifetime Alaskan, who is eligible for a PFD, dies during the qualifying year, their family is ineligible to apply for their PFD.

Children born in Alaska on the last possible day of the eligibility year can receive a PFD. Alaskan students who spend the majority of their time outside the state attending college can receive a PFD. Alaskan residents who spend up to 180 days outside of the state can receive a PFD. But if a lifetime Alaskan dies during the qualifying year, their family can not apply for their loved one's PFD. This is a common sense bill that would close this loophole and provide eligible, deceased Alaskans through their estate or successors, their last PFD.

Passage of this bill will allow Alaskans to receive their final PFD.