

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSHCR 26

75



Relating to determinations of eligibility for food stamps.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the present system of determining eligibility for food stamps has resulted in excessive delays for applicants; and

WHEREAS excessive delay in being able to obtain food stamps imposes a severe hardship on people who need them to live; and

WHEREAS a major cause of delay in determining eligibility is the practice of making final decisions in one of 10 decision-making offices in Alaska rather than in the local offices of the Department of Health and Social Services; and

WHEREAS this practice necessitates sending materials to one of 10 decision-making offices in Alaska and then back to the local offices; and

WHEREAS the delay caused by this practice is increased for residents of rural Alaska, where mail service is infrequent and unreliable. and

WHEREAS delay is further increased when the department determines that a second interview with the applicant is required; and

WHEREAS the authority to make final determinations of eligibility for food stamps would seem to be a matter that could safely be entrusted to the local offices;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Commissioner

of Health and Social Services, with existing personnel and funds, to delegate to the local offices of the department the authority to make final determinations of eligibility to obtain food stamps.