

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 231(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/29/04

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to unclaimed property; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 34.45.110(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Except as otherwise provided in AS 34.45.120 - 34.45.780, all intangible  
5 property, including income or increment derived from the property, less lawful  
6 charges, that is held, issued, or owing in the ordinary course of a holder's business and  
7 has remained unclaimed by the owner for more than **three** [FIVE] years after  
8 becoming payable or distributable is presumed abandoned.

9 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 34.45.150(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) Other than money payable on an instrument that is subject to  
11 AS 34.45.140, money payable on a check, draft, or similar instrument on which a  
12 banking or financial organization is directly liable, including a cashier's check and a  
13 certified check, that has been outstanding for more than **five** [SEVEN] years after it  
14 was payable or after its issuance if payable on demand, is presumed abandoned. This  
15 presumption does not apply if the owner, within the preceding **five** [SEVEN] years,

1 has communicated in writing with the banking or financial organization concerning  
 2 the instrument or has otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum  
 3 or other record, on file, prepared by an employee of the organization.

4 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 34.45.160(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A demand, savings, or matured time deposit with a banking or financial  
 6 organization, including a deposit that is automatically renewable, and money paid  
 7 toward the purchase of a share, a mutual investment certificate, or other intangible  
 8 property interest in a banking or financial organization is presumed abandoned unless  
 9 the owner, within the preceding five [SEVEN] years, has

10 (1) in the case of a deposit, increased or decreased its amount or  
 11 presented the passbook or other similar evidence of the deposit for the crediting of  
 12 interest;

13 (2) communicated in writing with the banking or financial organization  
 14 concerning the property; **or**

15 (3) otherwise indicated an interest in the property as evidenced by a  
 16 memorandum or other record, on file, prepared by an employee of the banking or  
 17 financial organization [;

18 (4) OWNED OTHER PROPERTY TO WHICH (1), (2), OR (3) OF  
 19 THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES AND THE BANKING OR FINANCIAL  
 20 ORGANIZATION HAS COMMUNICATED IN WRITING WITH THE OWNER  
 21 WITH REGARD TO THE PROPERTY THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE  
 22 PRESUMED ABANDONED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AT THE ADDRESS TO  
 23 WHICH COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE OTHER PROPERTY ARE  
 24 REGULARLY SENT; OR

25 (5) HAD ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BANKING OR  
 26 FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION CONCERNING WHICH THE OWNER HAS

27 (A) COMMUNICATED IN WRITING WITH THE  
 28 BANKING OR FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION OR OTHERWISE  
 29 INDICATED AN INTEREST AS EVIDENCE BY A MEMORANDUM OR  
 30 OTHER RECORD, ON FILE, PREPARED BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
 31 BANKING OR FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION; AND

1 (B) THE BANKING OR FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION  
 2 COMMUNICATES IN WRITING WITH THE OWNER WITH REGARD TO  
 3 THE PROPERTY THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE ABANDONED  
 4 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AT THE ADDRESS TO WHICH  
 5 COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE OTHER RELATIONSHIP  
 6 REGULARLY ARE SENT].

7 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 34.45.170(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) Money held or owing under a life or endowment insurance policy or  
 9 annuity contract that has matured or terminated is presumed abandoned if unclaimed  
 10 for more than **three** [FIVE] years after the money became due and payable as  
 11 established from the records of the insurance company holding or owing the money.  
 12 [HOWEVER, PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN (c)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS  
 13 PRESUMED ABANDONED IF UNCLAIMED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.]

14 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 34.45 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 **Sec. 34.45.175. Certain property distributed in insurance company**  
 16 **reorganizations.** (a) The following property distributable in the course of a  
 17 demutualization or related reorganization of an insurance company is considered  
 18 abandoned two years after the date of demutualization or reorganization as follows:

19 (1) money that remains unclaimed and the owner has not otherwise  
 20 communicated with the holder or its agent regarding the property as evidenced by a  
 21 memorandum or other record on file with the holder or its agent;

22 (2) stock or other equity interest if

23 (A) the instruments or statements reflecting the distribution are  
 24 either mailed to the owner and returned by the post office as undeliverable, or  
 25 not mailed to the owner because of an address on the books and records of the  
 26 holder that is known to be incorrect; and

27 (B) the owner has not otherwise communicated with the holder  
 28 or its agent regarding the property as evidenced by a memorandum or other  
 29 record on file with the holder or agent.

30 (b) Property that is not subject to (a) of this section is reportable as otherwise  
 31 provided in AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780.

1 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 34.45.200 is repealed and reenacted to read:

2 **Sec. 34.45.200. Stock and other intangible interests in business**  
 3 **associations.** (a) Stock or other equity interest in a business association is presumed  
 4 abandoned five years after the earliest of

5 (1) the date of the most recent dividend, stock split, or other  
 6 distribution unclaimed by the owner;

7 (2) the date that a statement of account or other notification or  
 8 communication concerning the stock or other equity interest was returned as  
 9 undeliverable; or

10 (3) the date that the holder of the stock or other equity interest  
 11 discontinued mailings, notifications, or communications to the owner.

12 (b) Unmatured or unredeemed debt of a business association, other than a  
 13 bearer bond or an original issue discount bond, is presumed abandoned five years after  
 14 the date of the most recent interest payment unclaimed by the owner.

15 (c) Matured or redeemed debt, including bearer bonds and original issue  
 16 discount bonds, is presumed abandoned five years after the date of maturity or  
 17 redemption.

18 (d) At the time property is presumed abandoned under this section, any other  
 19 property right accrued or accruing to the owner as a result of the property interest and  
 20 not previously presumed abandoned is also presumed abandoned.

21 (e) A distribution of net margins by a cooperative incorporated under  
 22 AS 10.25 is presumed abandoned if the distribution remains unclaimed by the owner  
 23 for more than one year after the date authorized for the distribution. The distribution  
 24 presumed abandoned under this subsection reverts to the cooperative if the cooperative  
 25 has, at least six months before the proposed date that the distribution reverts to the  
 26 cooperative, both

27 (1) mailed a notice of the proposed reversion to the last known address  
 28 of the owner as shown on the cooperative records; and

29 (2) published notice of the proposed reversion in the manner provided  
 30 by law or court rule for service of a summons by publication.

31 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 34.45.220(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) Intangible property and income or increment derived from the intangible  
 2 property held in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of another person is presumed  
 3 abandoned unless the owner, within three [FIVE] years after it has become payable or  
 4 distributable, has increased or decreased the principal, accepted payment of principal  
 5 or income, communicated concerning the property, or otherwise indicated an interest  
 6 as evidenced by a memorandum or other record, on file, prepared by the fiduciary.

7 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 34.45.240(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) A gift certificate or a credit memo, issued in the ordinary course of an  
 9 issuer's business, that remains unclaimed by the owner for more than three [FIVE]  
 10 years after becoming payable or distributable is presumed abandoned.

11 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 34.45 is amended by adding a section to article 3 to read:

12 **Sec. 34.45.270. Burden of proof as to property evidenced by record of**  
 13 **check, draft, or similar instrument.** A record of the issuance of a check, draft, or  
 14 similar instrument is prima facie evidence of an obligation. In claiming property from  
 15 a holder who is also the issuer, the department's burden of proof as to the existence  
 16 and amount of the property and its abandonment is satisfied by showing issuance of  
 17 the instrument and passage of the requisite period of abandonment. Defenses of  
 18 payment, satisfaction, discharge, and want of consideration are affirmative defenses  
 19 that must be established by the holder.

20 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 34.45.280(f) is repealed and reenacted to read:

21 (f) The requirements of this section apply to the holder of intangible property  
 22 with a total aggregate value greater than \$750 that is presumed abandoned under  
 23 AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780 during the year preceding June 30 of each year. For  
 24 purposes of determining total aggregate value under this subsection, the holder shall  
 25 include all intangible property from prior years that was not reported under  
 26 AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780.

27 \* **Sec. 11.** AS 34.45.290 is repealed and reenacted to read:

28 **Sec. 34.45.290. Requests for reports and examination of records.** (a) The  
 29 department may require a person who has not filed a report under AS 34.45.280 or a  
 30 person who the department believes has filed an inaccurate, incomplete, or false  
 31 report, to file a verified report in a form specified by the department. The report must

1 state whether the person is holding property reportable under AS 34.45.110 -  
2 34.45.780, describe property not previously reported or as to which the department has  
3 made inquiry, and specifically identify and state the amounts of the property that may  
4 be in issue.

5 (b) The department, at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, may  
6 examine the records of any person to determine whether the person has complied with  
7 AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780. The department may conduct the examination even if the  
8 person believes it is not in possession of any property that must be reported, paid, or  
9 delivered under AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780. The department may contract with any  
10 other person to conduct the examination on behalf of the department.

11 (c) The department at reasonable times may examine the records of an agent,  
12 including a dividend disbursing agent or transfer agent, of a business association that  
13 is the holder of property presumed abandoned if the department has given the notice  
14 required by (b) of this section to both the association and the agent at least 90 days  
15 before the examination.

16 (d) Documents and working papers obtained or compiled by the department,  
17 or the department's agents, employees, contractors, or designated representatives in the  
18 course of conducting an examination under AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780 are confidential  
19 and are not public records, but the documents and papers may be

20 (1) used by the department in the course of an action to collect  
21 unclaimed property or otherwise enforce AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780;

22 (2) used in joint examinations conducted with or under an agreement  
23 with another state, the federal government, or any other governmental subdivision,  
24 agency, or instrumentality;

25 (3) produced under subpoena or court order; or

26 (4) disclosed to the unclaimed property office of another state for that  
27 state's use in circumstances equivalent to those described in this subsection, if the  
28 other state is bound to keep the documents and papers confidential.

29 (e) If an examination of the records of a person results in the disclosure of  
30 property reportable under AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780, the department may assess the  
31 cost of the examination against the holder at the rate of \$200 a day for each examiner,

1 or a greater amount that is reasonable and was incurred, but the assessment may not  
 2 exceed the value of the property found to be reportable under AS 34.45.110 -  
 3 34.45.780. The cost of an examination made under (c) of this section may be assessed  
 4 only against the business association.

5 (f) If a holder does not maintain the records required by AS 34.45.300 and the  
 6 records of the holder available for the periods subject to AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780 are  
 7 insufficient to permit the preparation of a report, the department may require the  
 8 holder to report and pay to the department the amount the department reasonably  
 9 estimates, on the basis of any available records of the holder or by any other  
 10 reasonable method of estimation, should have been but was not reported.

11 \* **Sec. 12.** AS 34.45.300(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

12 (a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this section, a holder required to file  
 13 a report under AS 34.45.280 shall maintain the records containing the information  
 14 required to be included in the report for 10 years after the holder files the report,  
 15 unless a shorter period is provided by regulations adopted by the department.

16 \* **Sec. 13.** AS 34.45.310 is repealed and reenacted to read:

17 **Sec. 34.45.310. Notice and publication of lists of unclaimed property.** (a)

18 The department shall notify apparent owners of unclaimed property under  
 19 AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780 in the manner and method set out in (b) of this section. In  
 20 deciding whether to use an additional method specified in (b)(2) of this section, and  
 21 which of those methods to use, the department shall employ the most cost-effective  
 22 method available within its appropriations.

23 (b) The department

24 (1) shall notify all apparent owners of the unclaimed property in  
 25 accordance with this section by means of posting on the department's website on the  
 26 Internet;

27 (2) may use any of the following to provide additional notice to the  
 28 apparent owners:

29 (A) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
 30 area of the state in which the last known address of a person to be named in the  
 31 notice is located, or if the address is unknown, in the area in which the holder

1 has its principal place of business in the state;

2 (B) individual contact by regular or electronic mail, or by  
3 telephone, if the department has current contact information on file under  
4 AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780;

5 (C) any other manner and method that the department considers  
6 effective for providing notice and publication under AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.780.

7 (c) In its notice and publication under (b) of this section, the department shall  
8 provide the names of the apparent owners of the property and information regarding  
9 recovery of the unclaimed property.

10 (d) The department is not required to publish in the notice an item of less than  
11 \$100 in value.

12 (e) This section does not apply to money payable on traveler's checks, money  
13 orders, and other written instruments presumed abandoned under AS 34.45.140.

14 \* **Sec. 14.** AS 34.45.320(d) is amended to read:

15 (d) The holder of an equity [OWNERSHIP] interest under AS 34.45.200 shall  
16 deliver a duplicate certificate, or other evidence of ownership if the holder does not  
17 issue certificates of ownership, to the department. Upon delivery of a duplicate  
18 certificate to the department, the holder and a transfer agent, registrar, or other person  
19 acting for or on behalf of a holder in executing or delivering the duplicate certificate is  
20 relieved of all liability, in accordance with the provisions of AS 34.45.330 to every  
21 person, including a person acquiring the original certificate or the duplicate of the  
22 certificate issued to the department, for loss or damage resulting to a person by the  
23 issuance and delivery to the department of the duplicate certificate.

24 \* **Sec. 15.** AS 34.45.330(c) is amended to read:

25 (c) A holder who has delivered property [, INCLUDING A CERTIFICATE  
26 OF AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN A BUSINESS ASSOCIATION,] other than  
27 money to the department under AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.430 [,] may reclaim the property  
28 if it is still in the possession of the department, without payment of a fee or other  
29 charge, upon filing proof that the owner has claimed the property from the holder.

30 \* **Sec. 16.** AS 34.45.760(10) is amended to read:

31 (10) "intangible property"

1 (A) includes

2 (i) money, checks, drafts, warrants, deposits, interest,  
3 dividends, and income;

4 (ii) credit balances, customer overpayments, gift  
5 certificates, security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages,  
6 and unidentified remittances;

7 (iii) stocks and other intangible equity [OWNERSHIP]  
8 interests in business associations;

9 (iv) money deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons,  
10 and other securities, or to make distributions;

11 (v) amounts due and payable under the terms of  
12 insurance policies; [AND]

13 (vi) amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund  
14 established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation,  
15 severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit-sharing, employee  
16 savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits;  
17 **and**

18 **(vii) amounts due and payable as mineral proceeds;**

19 (B) does not include

20 (i) unused airline tickets;

21 (ii) shares of stock issued by a corporation organized  
22 under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1629a (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act)  
23 or unclaimed dividends payable on the shares of stock; or

24 (iii) overpaid contributions by employers to the  
25 unemployment compensation fund under AS 23.20.130;

26 \* **Sec. 17.** AS 34.45.760 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

27 (18) "gift certificate" means an obligation of a business association  
28 arising from a transaction between the business association and a consumer to provide  
29 goods or services at a future date; "gift certificate" includes a gift certificate, stored  
30 value card, gift card, on-line gift account, or other representation or evidence of the  
31 obligation of a business association;

1 (19) "mineral" means gas; oil; other gaseous, liquid, and solid  
 2 hydrocarbons; oil shale; cement material; sand and gravel; road material; building  
 3 stone; chemical raw material; gemstone; fissionable and nonfissionable ores; colloidal  
 4 and other clay; steam and other geothermal resources; or any other substance defined  
 5 as mineral by other state law;

6 (20) "mineral proceeds" means amounts payable for the extraction,  
 7 production, or sale of minerals, or, upon the abandonment of those payments, all  
 8 payments that become payable after the abandonment; "mineral proceeds" includes  
 9 amounts payable

10 (A) for the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease,  
 11 including bonuses, royalties, compensatory royalties, shut-in royalties,  
 12 minimum royalties, and delay rentals;

13 (B) for the extraction, production, or sale of minerals, including  
 14 net revenue interests, royalties, overriding royalties, extraction payments, and  
 15 production payments;

16 (C) under an agreement or option, including a joint operating  
 17 agreement, unit agreement, pooling agreement, and farm-out agreement.

18 \* **Sec. 18.** AS 34.45.760(11) is repealed.

19 \* **Sec. 19.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
 20 read:

21 **APPLICABILITY.** The changes made by this Act apply to property that meets either  
 22 of the following:

23 (1) property that, on the effective date of this Act, already was subject to a  
 24 statutory provision amended by this Act;

25 (2) property that, on or after the effective date of this Act, becomes subject to  
 26 a statutory provision amended by this Act.

27 \* **Sec. 20.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).