

SENATE BILL NO. 77

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KIEHL

Introduced: 1/27/25

Referred: Labor and Commerce, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to national criminal history record checks for certain employees of the**
2 **Department of Revenue; relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent**
3 **fund dividend; relating to the confidentiality of certain information provided on a**
4 **permanent fund dividend application; relating to the duties of the Department of**
5 **Revenue; and providing for an effective date."**

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

7 * **Section 1.** AS 12.62.400(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) To obtain a national criminal history record check for determining a
9 current or prospective employee's qualifications under AS 39.90.210, **a current or**
10 **prospective employee's qualifications and suitability to administer the permanent**
11 **fund dividend program under AS 43.23,** or a contractor's qualifications under
12 AS 36.30.960, the agency or the procurement officer shall submit the current or
13 prospective employee's or contractor's fingerprints to the department with the fee

established by AS 12.62.160. The department shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain a national criminal history record check of the current or prospective employee or contractor for the purpose of evaluating a person's qualifications under AS 36.30.960, [AND] AS 39.90.210, or AS 43.23, as applicable. In this subsection, unless the context otherwise requires,

(1) "agency" has the meaning given in AS 39.90.290;

(2) "contractor" has the meaning given in AS 36.30.960;

(3) "employee" has the meaning given in AS 39.90.290.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.008(a) is amended to read:

(a) Subject to (b) and (d) of this section, an otherwise eligible individual who is absent from the state during the qualifying year remains eligible for a current year permanent fund dividend if the individual was absent

(1) receiving secondary or postsecondary education on a full-time basis; on a break or holiday from a secondary or postsecondary educational institution during an academic year, not including summer break, if the individual is enrolled in and attends the educational institution on a full-time basis before and after the break or holiday; or in an orientation program required as a condition of the secondary or postsecondary education and the individual immediately begins the education on a full-time basis after the completion of the orientation;

(2) receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state; on a break or holiday from the vocational, professional, or other specific training, not including summer break, if the individual is enrolled in and attends the training on a full-time basis before and after the break or holiday; or in an orientation program required as a condition of the vocational, professional, or other specific training and the individual immediately begins the training on a full-time basis after the completion of the orientation;

(3) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or accompanying, as that individual's spouse, minor dependent, or

1 disabled dependent, an individual who is

2 (A) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of
3 the United States; and

4 (B) eligible for a current year dividend;

5 (4) serving under foreign or coastal articles of employment aboard an
6 oceangoing vessel of the United States merchant marine **or attending a vocational**
7 **program that**

8 **(A) trains students for a career in the United States**
9 **merchant marine;**

10 **(B) provides seagoing service that meets the requirements**
11 **of the United States Coast Guard for United States merchant marine**
12 **credentialing; and**

13 **(C) is approved by the United States Coast Guard;**

14 (5) receiving continuous medical treatment recommended by a
15 licensed physician or convalescing as recommended by the physician who treated the
16 illness if the treatment or convalescence is not based on a need for climatic change;

17 (6) providing care for a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild with
18 a critical life-threatening illness whose treatment plan, as recommended by the
19 attending physician, requires travel outside the state for treatment at a medical
20 specialty complex;

21 (7) providing care for the individual's terminally ill family member;

22 (8) settling the estate of the individual's deceased parent, spouse,
23 sibling, child, or stepchild, provided the absence does not exceed 220 cumulative days;

24 (9) serving as a member of the United States Congress;

25 (10) serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United
26 States Congress;

27 (11) serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other
28 location;

29 (12) accompanying a minor who is absent under (5) of this subsection;

30 (13) accompanying another eligible resident who is absent for a reason
31 permitted under (1), (2), (5) - (12), (16), or (17) of this subsection as the spouse, minor

1 dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident;

2 (14) serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program;

3 (15) because of training or competing as a member of the United States
4 Olympic Team or a United States national team for an Olympic sport;

5 (16) participating for educational purposes in a student fellowship
6 sponsored by the United States Department of Education or by the United States
7 Department of State;

8 (17) for any reason consistent with the individual's intent to remain a
9 state resident, provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed

10 (A) 180 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
11 claimed

12 (i) under (3) of this subsection if the individual is not
13 claiming an absence under (1), (2), or (4) - (16) of this subsection; **or**

14 **(ii) under (5) of this subsection if the individual is**
15 **not claiming an absence under (1) - (4) or (6) - (16) of this**
16 **subsection;**

17 (B) 120 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
18 claimed under (1) - (3) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an
19 absence under (4) - (16) of this subsection but is claiming an absence under (1)
20 or (2) of this subsection; or

21 (C) 45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
22 claimed under (1) - (16) of this subsection if the individual is claiming an
23 absence under (4) - (16) of this subsection.

24 * **Sec. 3.** AS 43.23.055 is amended to read:

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

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

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

1 (3) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act)
 2 that establish procedures and time limits for an individual upon emancipation or upon
 3 reaching majority to apply for permanent fund dividends not received during minority
 4 because the parent, guardian, or other authorized representative did not apply on
 5 behalf of the individual;

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (A) access to the data base; or

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

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

(A) Department of Law in the prosecution of individuals who apply for or obtain a permanent fund dividend in violation of a provision in AS 11, by detecting and investigating those crimes; and

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

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

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

* **Sec. 4.** AS 43.23.110(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, information on each permanent fund dividend application [, EXCEPT THE APPLICANT'S NAME,] is confidential. The department may only release information that is confidential under this section

(1) to a local, state, or federal government agency;

(2) in compliance with a court order;

(3) to the individual who or agency that files an application on behalf of another;

(4) to a banking institution to verify the direct deposit of a permanent fund dividend or correct an error in that deposit;

(5) as directed to do so by the applicant;

(6) to a contractor who has a contract with a person entitled to obtain the information under (1) - (5) of this section to receive, store, or manage the information on that person's behalf; a contractor receiving data under this paragraph

1 may only use the data as directed by and for the purposes of the person entitled to
 2 obtain the information;

3 (7) to the division of elections as required by AS 43.23.101.

4 * **Sec. 5.** AS 43.23.140(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) An assignment of or levy, execution, garnishment, attachment, or other
 6 remedy for the collection of debt applied to a dividend for a year may not be accepted
 7 by the department before April 1 of that same year. AS 09.38.080(c) and 09.38.085 do
 8 not apply to a levy on a permanent fund dividend. Upon receipt of a writ of execution
 9 under (a) of this section or another court order, the commissioner shall deliver to the
 10 court that portion of the dividend executed on [UPON] along with the case name and
 11 number. At the time payment is made to the court, the department shall send notice to
 12 the court that issued the writ or order and to the individual at the address provided
 13 in the individual's dividend application or the electronic mail address at which the
 14 individual has consented to receive notices or documents in a verifiable manner,
 15 as provided in regulations adopted by the department. The [AND TO THE
 16 COURT THAT ISSUED THE WRIT OR ORDER A] notice must contain [THAT
 17 CONTAINS]

18 (1) notification that all or part of the individual's dividend has been
 19 seized under a writ of execution or court order;

20 (2) the name and address of the court that issued the writ or order;

21 (3) the case number for which the writ or order was issued;

22 (4) the amount seized under the writ or order; and

23 (5) notification that the individual has 30 days from the date the notice
 24 is mailed in which to file with the court an objection to the seizure if a mistake has
 25 been made.

26 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.