

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 12, 2025

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Matt Claman, Chair
Senator Jesse Kiehl, Vice Chair
Senator Löki Tobin
Senator Robert Myers

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Gary Stevens

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 12

"An Act relating to permanent fund dividends for individuals owing child support; and relating to applications and qualifications for permanent fund dividends for individuals owing child support."

- MOVED CSSB 12(JUD) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 12

SHORT TITLE: PFD/CHILD SUPPORT

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) DUNBAR

01/10/25	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(S)	JUD, FIN
02/05/25	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/05/25	(S)	Heard & Held
02/05/25	(S)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/12/25	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

BREANNA KAKARUK, Staff
Senator Matt Claman
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented the explanation of changes for SB 12 from version \A to version \I.

SENATOR FORREST DUNBAR, District J
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave a recap of SB 12.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:31:02 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN called the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Myers, Kiehl, Tobin, and Chair Claman.

SB 12-PFD/CHILD SUPPORT

[1:31:31 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 12 "An Act relating to permanent fund dividends for individuals owing child support; and relating to applications and qualifications for permanent fund dividends for individuals owing child support."

CHAIR CLAMAN said this is the second hearing of SB 12 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The intention is to propose a Judiciary committee substitute (CS).

CHAIR CLAMAN solicited a motion.

[1:31:49 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 12, work order 34-LS0135\I, as the working document.

[1:32:03 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN objected for purposes of discussion. He invited Ms. Kakaruk to present the explanation of changes.

[1:32:26 PM](#)

BREANNA KAKARUK, Staff, Senator Matt Claman, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the explanation of changes for SB 12 from version \A to version \I as paraphrased below:

[Original punctuation provided.]

Explanation of Changes

Senate Judiciary Committee: Version A to Version I

The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute to SB 12 contains the following changes described below.

- Require the Department of Revenue to file a dividend application on behalf of an individual in arrears under a child support order.
- Require the Department of Revenue to notify the individual in arrears and individual owed child support that the application for an individual in arrears has been filed by the department and that either party have an opportunity to provide evidence of eligibility.
- Remove language requiring the Department of Revenue to assume previously eligible applicants of the dividend remain eligible for the dividend, and remove requirements for an individual owing child support to provide proof of ineligibility.
- Add a 7 percent administrative fee for the Department of Revenue on applications distributed under (i) of Sec. 3.
- Require Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Revenue to indicate which people in arrears are presumed eligible for the Permanent Fund dividend and removes the custodial parent's ability to file these applications.

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CHAIR CLAMAN removed his objection and CSSB 12 was adopted as the working document. He invited the bill sponsor to make closing comments.

[1:34:08 PM](#)

SENATOR FORREST DUNBAR, District J, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, gave a recap of SB 12. He expressed appreciation to the members of the committee who provided thoughtful feedback. The intent of SB 12 is to help custodial parents collect money owed for child support, which the Department of Revenue (DOR) could provide through the permanent fund dividend (PFD).

SENATOR DUNBAR said the challenge in making this work lies in the technical aspects. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation between the chair, administrative agencies, and his

office in creating a functional system that avoids known pitfalls. He stated that the major change is the removal of the non-custodial parent's ability to apply for a PFD; instead, the CS proposes that DOR file the application. The CS also proposes that DOR collect a seven percent administrative fee to offset costs for locating individuals, determining eligibility, and managing the process. He said DOR provided the figure and that seven percent is reasonable. He thanked the committee, stating version \I is workable and designed with flexibility to ensure agencies can implement SB 12 in a rational way.

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CHAIR CLAMAN noted that representatives from the Child Support Enforcement Division, Permanent Fund Dividend Division, and the liaison from the Department of Revenue were present and available to answer questions.

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He found no questions and solicited the will of the committee.

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SENATOR KIEHL moved to report CSSB 12, work order 34-LS0135\I, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[1:36:09 PM](#)

CHAIR CLAMAN found no objection and CSSB 12(JUD) was reported from the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee.

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There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Claman adjourned the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting at 1:36 p.m.