

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYER, Ulmer, Gruenberg, Hudson

Introduced: 1/14/92

Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, State Affairs, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to omit Alaska permanent
2 fund dividends and Alaska longevity bonus payments from gross income for purposes of
3 making rent calculations applicable to certain housing assistance programs.

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

5 WHEREAS, for purposes of eligibility of its housing assistance programs, the United States
6 Department of Housing and Urban Development calculates monthly rental payment assistance on the
7 annual adjusted gross income of the individual or family making application; and

8 WHEREAS, for the benefit of its residents, the State of Alaska sponsors and supports two unique
9 programs, the Alaska permanent fund dividend program and the longevity bonus program; and

10 WHEREAS the amount received from both sources is currently regarded as income by the
11 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as the agency determines annual adjusted
12 gross income for rent calculations; and

13 WHEREAS the amount of the permanent fund dividend, paid annually to state residents, has
14 varied, based upon the earnings of the permanent fund dividend account, from a low of \$331 to a high
15 of \$1,000, averaging \$670 since inception; and

16 WHEREAS the dividend program payment is made in one check, typically received by the

1 applicant within the last three-month period of the calendar year; and

2 **WHEREAS** the longevity bonus payment, payable to state residents 65 years of age and older,
3 was instituted by the legislature to encourage and assist senior citizens to remain in Alaska during
4 retirement; and

5 **WHEREAS** receipt of the longevity bonus, now \$250 a month payable monthly, in combination
6 with income from other sources, may place senior citizens above the income limits for housing
7 assistance; and

8 **WHEREAS** some senior citizens may choose to forego applying for the longevity bonus in order
9 to stay within the income limits for housing assistance; and

10 **WHEREAS** the practice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of treating
11 payments received from these two programs as income is inconsistent with its efforts and the efforts of
12 the state to assure that the state's low-income residents secure and maintain the benefits of decent
13 housing and self-sufficiency through eventual homeownership and with the state's interest and efforts
14 to allow senior citizens to maintain themselves in their own homes rather than relocating to communal
15 residences and institutions; and

16 **WHEREAS** the omission of the payments received under the state's two programs from the
17 definition of adjusted gross income for purposes of rent calculations would enable more citizens to
18 benefit from the department's housing initiatives;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Secretary of the United States
20 Department of Housing and Urban Development is respectfully requested to approve as a waiver the
21 Alaska permanent fund dividend program and the longevity bonus program in determining annual
22 adjusted gross income for purposes of rent calculations for the department's housing assistance programs.

23 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jack Kemp, Secretary of the U.S.
24 Department of Housing and Urban Development.