

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57 (STATE AFFAIRS)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/28/92**

**Referred: Finance**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BOYER, Ulmer, Gruenberg, Hudson, B.Davis, Parnell**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Requesting the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to omit the Alaska permanent  
2 fund dividend and the Alaska longevity bonus from gross income for purposes of making  
3 payment 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 payments on the annual adjusted  
7 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 is paid in one check, typically received by the applicant within the last**

1 three-month period of the calendar year; and

2       **WHEREAS** the longevity bonus, payable to state residents 65 years of age and older, was  
3 instituted by the legislature to encourage and assist senior citizens to remain in Alaska during retirement;  
4 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 the  
11 receipts of these two programs as income is inconsistent with its efforts and the efforts of the state to  
12 assure that the state's low-income residents secure and maintain the benefits of decent housing and self-  
13 sufficiency through eventual homeownership and with the state's interest and efforts to allow senior  
14 citizens to maintain themselves in their own homes rather than relocating to communal residences and  
15 institutions; and

16       **WHEREAS** the omission of the amounts received under the state's two programs from the  
17 definition of adjusted gross income for purposes of payment 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 payment calculations for the department's housing assistance  
23 programs.

24       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jack Kemp, Secretary of the U.S.  
25 Department of Housing and Urban Development; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
26 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
27 Alaska delegation in Congress.