

HB

26

Thursday
Feb. 21, 1991

Rep. Gene Kubina
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee

Dear Sir:

We have received a reply to our letter to Senator Sam Cotton pertaining to our concern about House Bill #26. He also sent us a copy of the proposed bill to read and suggested we write to you. Our concerns about House Bill 26 are as follows:

1. Since both the Longevity Bonus and Permanent Fund Dividend programs are State of Alaska laws, the residency criteria should be identical for both programs. It is important that the payments go only to bone fide Alaskan residents. We don't feel the number of days absent from the state is as important to establishing residency as ownership of one's home or long term rental in Alaska, voter registration, car registration. Alaska driver's license, fishing and hunting licenses. We think recipients of both or either programs should be required to be physically in the state at least half of the year, but the applications should also require the other evidence of residency.

2. As we read the proposed House Bill 26, there would be a hardship created by the age 65 or older proposal for allowed absence from the state. For example, one of us (husband) is 67 and the other (wife) is 63. The older one could be absent from the state longer than the younger one and still be eligible for the Permanent Fund Dividend. This discrepancy should be corrected by both programs requiring 180 days the maximum time allowable for absence from the state in one calendar year.

In conclusion we would suggest the following:

1. Have the requirements for allowed absence from the state identical (ie 180 days maximum without regard to age).

2. Use home ownership, long term rental, voter and vehicle registration, Alaska driver's license etc. as additional evidence of residency.

Thank you for reading our comments. We will be following your deliberations closely.

Sincerely,

Marvis Nelson
Robert E. Nelson

Marvis Nelson
Robert E Nelson
4016 James Dr.
Anchorage. Ak 99504

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