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362

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 362 (STATE AFFAIRS)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR CRAFT

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

**1 "An Act relating to permanent fund dividend applications; and providing for an effective
2 date."**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 43.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 Sec. 43.23.016. VOTER REGISTRATION. The commissioner shall include voter
6 registration forms prepared under AS 15.07.070(b) with permanent fund dividend applications.

7 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 1993.

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 362

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to qualifica-
tions for permanent fund dividends
Sponsor: Craft
Requestor: Senate State Affairs

Agency Affected: Revenue
BRU: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
Components: Permanent Fund Dividend
Division
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 9 8 1

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LANDS & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (INTERAGENCY)	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
TOTAL	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None.

ANALYSIS: See attached.

Prepared By: Thomas C. Williams Phone: 465-2323
Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Division Date: February 10, 1992

Approved by Commissioner: David [Signature] Date: 2/10/92
Agency: Revenue

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND DIVISION

SB 362 ANALYSIS

As of February 10, 1992

This fiscal note is based on the following assumptions.

1. The intent of this legislation is to have the Department of Revenue provide a voter's registration form in each application booklet or to make them available at the Dividend Information Offices.
2. The Division of Elections will prepare a two page insertion for the 1993 and subsequent year Permanent Fund Dividend application booklets that would have two prepaid postage postcard registration forms. The insertion will be a color distinct from the Permanent Fund Dividend application form.
3. The postcard form will instruct registrants to mail the forms directly to the Division of Elections. Consequently, the vast majority of registrants will return their registration form to the Division of Elections instead of returning it to the Department of Revenue with their permanent fund dividend applications.
4. The cost of printing voter registration forms, inserting two additional pages in the application booklet and transferring voter registration forms to and from the Department of Revenue will be born by the Division of Elections, not the Department of Revenue.
5. Because of the uniqueness of voter registrations, the Department does not object to the enclosure of this form in the Permanent Fund Dividend booklet. However, the Department would oppose the enclosure of any other non-Permanent Fund Dividend related forms.

Contractual Services

Post Office Distribution	285,000	
Out of State, Community and Dividend Information Office Distribution	<u>45,000</u>	
Total Booklets	<u>330,000</u>	
2 additional pages		\$16.0
Additional postage		<u>-0-</u>
<u>Total Contractual Services</u>		<u>\$16.0</u>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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(907) 465-3834
Fax: 586-6246

Shirley Craft
Alaska State Senator

To: Senator Pat Rodey, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Senator Shirley Craft *Shirley*

Date: February 6, 1992

Re: SB 362; An act relating to the permanent fund dividend applications.

I would appreciate your scheduling this legislation for a hearing in the State Affairs Committee.

The purpose of this legislation is extremely simple. The number of registered voters eligible to vote in the 1990 election was 300,569. This number has dropped to 287,569, as of January 2, 1992. While it might be a concern with some members of the Senate that the application for the Permanent Fund Dividend be kept pure, I believe that the state is facing a crisis in voter apathy. The Permanent Fund Division received 359,450 applications as of the end of December of 1991. Considering the requirements for eligibility for the Permanent Fund are more stringent than those to vote, there are over 71,000 possible eligible voters who, for one reason or another, are not registered. For this state to sit back and idly watch the number of registered voters dwindle without attempting to turn this trend around is untenable. I believe that implementation of this legislation will provide yet another valuable avenue of access to the state's voting process.

Please do not hesitate in contacting Tom Brice of my staff at x3834 for more information.

Thank you.

SPONSOR STATEMENT

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
P.O. BOX AF
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0105
PHONE (907) 465-4611

February 5, 1992

Senator Shirley Craft
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Craft:

The Division of Elections would like to express our support of Senate Bill 362, "An act relating to permanent fund dividend applications; and providing for an effective date."

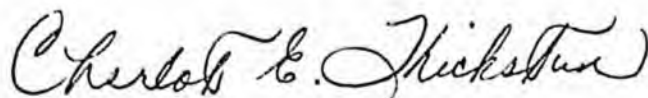
The inclusion of a voter registration form in the Permanent Fund Dividend application will provide Alaskans with an opportunity to easily access the voter registration process. It will help those wishing to register for the first time, those who have moved and need to inform the Division of their change in address, and it will remind all Alaskans of their commitment to vote.

We have worked with the Permanent Fund Division on various projects and have formed a good working relationship. As recently as early January we spoke with Tom Williams, Director of the Permanent Fund Dividend Division and considered the possibility of including a voter registration form with the 1992 Permanent Fund applications.

Unfortunately, due to fiscal constraints resulting from Reapportionment costs for which we have not been reimbursed, we can not implement a program of this nature before 1994. While we are excited about this legislation and look forward to working with the Permanent Fund Dividend Division, the only way we can implement this program by January 1, 1993 is if there are funds appropriated with the bill to account for the costs.

Senator Craft, the Division of Elections supports your efforts to include voter registration forms in the Permanent Fund Dividend Application. If you have further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Charlot E. Thickstun
Director



JOHN B. COGHILL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

P. O. BOX AA

JUNEAU 99811-0111

(907) 465-3520

February 5, 1992

Senator Shirley Craft
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator ~~Craft~~ *Shirley*

I would like to express my support for SB 362, "An act relating to permanent fund dividend applications; and providing for an effective date."

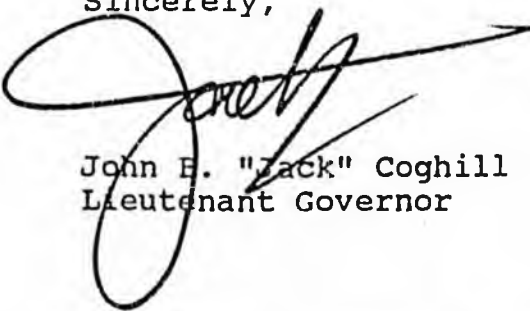
I have always been a strong advocate for encouraging Alaskans to exercise their right to vote, and I regard this legislation as a significant attempt at increasing voter registration and awareness.

While I support your legislation, I have one concern. It is extremely important to me that Alaskans do not have the impression that receipt of the Permanent Fund Dividend is contingent on one's voter registration. It is my belief that registering to vote is a right and a privilege. I know that is not your intent Senator, but I feel I should let you know my position. I am sure the necessary steps can be taken to prevent any misunderstandings on the part of Dividend application recipients.

Additionally, I would suggest that the Legislature appropriate the necessary funds to make this project a reality for the January 1, 1993 effective date. In the years that follow the Division of Elections will be able to budget for this project, but in order to meet this effective date they will have to rely on a legislative appropriation. I wholeheartedly endorse the investment in increasing access to voter registration, and encourage the Legislature to fund this project.

Senator Craft, I hope that your colleagues in the Legislature will join me in enthusiastically supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely,


John B. "Jack" Coghill
Lieutenant Governor

COGHILL LETTER