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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Al Adams
Chairman
Committee on Finance

January 16, 1984

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Al Adams *APA*

SUBJ: HBs 478 and 516: Extension of application period for 1983 permanent fund dividends

I have introduced the above captioned bills because many of my constituents contacted me during the interim to let me know that they were unable to file for their 1983 dividend checks because of the nature of their seasonal employment. Because the original deadline was June 30th, many of my constituents were out fishing or otherwise involved with activities away from home in isolated areas, and therefore they were not aware of the deadline.

Since I have worked closely with the Department of Revenue in the development of this legislation, I do not anticipate that this problem will occur every year, necessitating similar legislation each session. I am confident that the Department will make every effort to insure that Alaskans who leave home for work for part or all of the summer will have adequate opportunity to file for their yearly dividend check.

HB 478

HB 478 is the bill that actually changes the language of the statute to extend the deadline to May 15, 1984. However, an applicant must have been a resident of the state for six months before March 31, 1983, the date that establishes residency for those who have already received a 1983 dividend. Thus, the application period is extended but not the period for establishing residency in 1983.

The bill also provides that only funding appropriated or allocated for 1983 dividends can be used to pay the

dividend checks of new applicants. Further, it states that dividends will not be paid out until after March 1, 1984 (so as not to conflict with the schedule for paying dividends for other years) and gives the Department the authority to promulgate regulations to implement the bill. The bill has an immediate effective date.

HB 516

HB 516 makes the necessary appropriations to pay 1983 dividends to late filers. The funding provided comes from interest earned on the permanent fund principal during FY 83. This is the source of funding established in statute for payment of permanent fund dividends (see AS 43.23.045(b)). As you know, 50% of the interest earned on the permanent fund each year is earmarked for payment of permanent fund dividends. This past year, the Department of Revenue underestimated how much the interest earnings would be. Therefore, the legislature appropriated approximately \$19 million less for dividends than what has actually turned out to be 50% of interest earnings. The funding provided in this bill comes from that \$19 million.

\$11,584,500 is the amount estimated as necessary to pay the dividends of late filers. Obviously, it is difficult for the Department to estimate exactly how many people will file during the extended deadline period. This represents their best guess at this time. Any funding not used for this purpose would lapse at the end of FY 85.

\$347,600 is appropriated for processing the dividend applications. I have instructed the Division of Legislative Finance to review the Department's cost estimates for processing and plan to look very carefully at this figure if the bill passes from your committee to the House Finance Committee. Again, the caveat regarding estimating the number of late filers applies here. And again, any funding not used would lapse at the end of FY 85.

The bill would become effective on the same date that a bill extending the deadline becomes effective.