

HB

368

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
GENE THERRIAULT
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North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-0862

House District 33

Write in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
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House Of Representatives

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Loren Leman, Chairman
Senate State Affairs

FROM: Representative Gene Therriault 

DATE: February 24, 1994

SUBJECT: Scheduling of HB 368

I would like to request that HB 368, "An Act relating to the reapplication for the 1993 permanent fund dividend when the United States Postal Service documents the loss of mail during the 1993 application period; and providing for an effective date" be scheduled for a hearing before the Senate State Affairs Committee.

House Bill 368 is designed to address a problem that has come to light regarding 1993 PFD applications that were lost by the U.S. Postal Service. This bill would open a narrow window for PFD applicants by extending the reapplication period for the 1993 dividend year from September 1, 1993 to September 1, 1994. The applicant would be required to provide a sworn statement that the application was originally mailed in the postal area during the time mail from that area was lost, a sworn statement from another individual who witnessed the mailing or signed the residency verification of the original application before the 1993 deadline, and documentation from the United States Postal Service acknowledging the loss of mail entered into the mail stream during the 1993 permanent fund dividend application period.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Alaska State Legislature

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GENE THERRIAULT
P O Box 55326
North Pole, Alaska 99705
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House District 33



Whole in June 10
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House Of Representatives

HB 368 Reapplication for the 1993 permanent fund dividend when the United States Postal Service documents the loss of mail during the 1993 application period; and providing for an effective date.

SPONSOR: Rep. Gene Therriault

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

House Bill 368 is designed to address a problem that has come to light regarding 1993 PFD applications that were lost by the U.S. Postal Service. In October of 1993 my office was contacted by numerous constituents regarding loss of their Permanent Fund Dividend applications. The PFD Division did not have record of receiving their applications, however the individuals noted mailing their applications early in January through the North Pole Post Office. After looking into this situation, my staff learned that the Postal Service had received calls in January 1993 from customers whose payments had not reached creditors. These complaints led to a U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigation which determined that an apparent loss of mail took place on January 8, 9, or 11, 1993, affecting residents in the North Pole area. A letter documenting the loss was supplied to customers for the notification of creditors.

HB 368 would open a narrow window for PFD applicants by extending the reapplication period for the 1993 dividend year from September 1, 1993 to September 1, 1994. The applicant would be required to provide a sworn statement that the application was originally mailed in the postal area during the time mail from that area was lost, a sworn statement from another individual who witnessed the mailing or signed the residency verification of the original application before the 1993 deadline, and documentation from the United States Postal Service acknowledging the loss of mail entered into the mail stream during the 1993 permanent fund dividend application period.

The PFD Division currently allows an applicant who timely filed an application that was not received by the PFD Division to reapply before September 1 of the dividend year (15 AAC 23.103 (h)). The Division has traditionally allowed reapplications, however 1993 was the first year the deadline was established. Although PFD applicants received batch cards that verify receipt of their application, a number of individuals did not expect to receive a batch card last year due to the new direct deposit method of payment and therefore did not get notice of a problem until it was too late.

An extension to this deadline is needed for the 1993 reapplication period due to this loss of mail at the North Pole Post Office and the new deadline for reapplying for the dividend. My staff and I have worked with the PFD Division within the Department of Revenue to draft the language of HB 368 to solve this problem without throwing the reapplication period wide open.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 368

Revision Date:		Dept. Affected:	Revenue
Title:	Reapplication Period For 1993 PF Dividend	BRU:	Permanent Fund Dividend
Sponsor:	THERRIAULT, James, Pamell, Vezey	Component:	Permanent Fund Dividend
Requestor:	House State Affairs	COMPONENT SERIAL NO.	981

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: \$ -0-

ANALYSIS:

The Department has historically opposed any broad based reopening of an application period. However, since this legislation deals with the re-submission of applications that were allegedly originally filed timely but not received by the Department due to strictly defined circumstances, the Department's position on this legislation is *neutral*. This legislation is expected to affect 40 - 50 1993 applicants, many of whom have already submitted a late request-to-reapply. Consequently, the Department does not expect to receive a large number of additional reapplications and should be able to process all anticipated reapplications within its current budget. This legislation may result in an unanticipated large number of applicants. If so, a supplemental may be requested.

Prepared by:	Thomas C. Williams	Phone: 465-2323
Division:	Permanent Fund Dividend	Date: 01/20/94
Approved by Commissioner:		Date: 1/20/94
Agency:	Department of Revenue	

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United States
Postal Service

February 5, 1993

SUBJECT: LOST MAIL

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Fairbanks Post Office are investigating the apparent loss of a considerable amount of mail that was entered into the mailstream on January 8, 9 and 11, 1993. This loss was brought to our attention when the Post Office began receiving calls from customers whose payments had not reached the creditors.

We do not know the extent of the loss or the number of customers affected at this time. We ask that those creditors whose customers mailed their payments during this time,

JANUARY 8TH, 9TH OR 11, 1993,

take this into consideration when reviewing their accounts.

If you have questions about this matter, you may contact our office in North Pole. The phone number is (907) 488-2896.

Sincerely,

J. C. Thomas
Postmaster
U. S. Postal Service
5400 Mail Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99709-9998

JCT:gg

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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907.465.3800

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HB 362