

**HB**

**201**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/29/05

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

Judiciary Committee considered

HOUSE BILL NO. 201

## HB 201 PERM. FUND DIVIDEND APPS OF MILITARY

"An Act relating to an application for a permanent fund dividend for a member of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty outside of the state; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**CS Senate Bill:**

- Same Title
- New Title

**SCS House Bill:**

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_




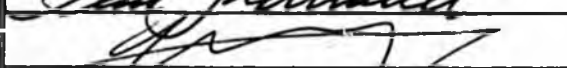

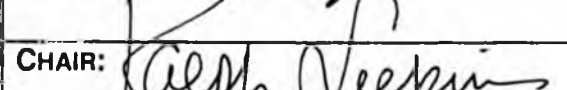
**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
			X	
			X	
	X			
	X			
				
<b>CHAIR:</b> 	X			

# STATE OF ALASKA

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MIKE CHENAULT**

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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## Sponsor Statement

**HB 201 "An act relating to an application for a permanent fund dividend for a member of the armed services of the United States serving on active duty outside the state of Alaska"**

The purpose of this bill is to permit the person who has power of attorney for an individual who is serving on active duty with the United States armed services outside the state of Alaska to sign and file a permanent fund application for said individual.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 201  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/18/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Revenue  
 Title Perm Fund Dividend Apps of Military RDU Revenue Programs & Support  
 Component Permanent Fund Dividend  
 Sponsor Chenault  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component No. 981

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 201 would allow a power of attorney to complete, sign and file an application for a military member stationed outside of the US.. A total of 6,205 applicants claimed a military absence from the state in 2004. The PFD does not track how many of these individuals were stationed outside the US. The bill would not result in any significant increased cost for processing PFD applications.

Prepared by: Sharon Barton Phone 907-465-4785  
 Division Permanent Fund Dividend Date/Time 3/16/05 1:21 PM  
 Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/16/2005  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 485-3867 or 485-2450  
FAX (907) 485-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Permanent fund dividends for members of the armed forces;  
sectional summary (HB 201)

**TO:** Representative Mike Chenault,  
Co-chair, House Finance Committee  
Attn: Erich DeLand

**FROM:** Tamara Brandt Cook  
Director

TBC

**Sec. 1.** Permits another person to complete and file a permanent fund dividend application for a member of the United States armed forces who is serving outside of the country. The person must have a power of attorney from the member of the armed forces that authorizes the person to file the application.

**Sec. 2.** The effective date is January 1, 2006, the day before the beginning of the filing period for 2006 permanent fund dividend applications.

TBC:med  
05-166.med

## Erich Deland

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**From:** Linda Zimmerman ([zimmerman@kpbsd.k12.ak.us])  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2005 10:24 PM  
**To:** Erich Deland  
**Cc:** troy.zimmerman@us.army.mil  
**Subject:** HB 201 testimonial

Erich,

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the teleconference regarding HB 201 on Thursday, March 17. :( I have prepared a statement to be read & know that it would have a bigger impact if I was to speak. Being a teacher makes it difficult for me to be present at the time. Thank you for all you have done & all that Rep. Chenault has done with this situation. I pray that HB 201 gets passed quickly!

Linda

My name is Linda Zimmerman. I am a teacher on the Kenai Peninsula. My husband, Troy, is a History & Spanish teacher at the local high school in the town of Nikiski. We have 3 young children. My husband is also an Alaska Natl. Guardsman. My husband has been in the Natl. Guards for 21 years! Although he could have retired in February 2004 after receiving his 20 year letter, he decided to sign on for more years to serve his country.

On October 2004, our world was totally turned upside down. My husband was being deployed & would be overseas for 12 to 18 months serving his country with the Army. Never in a million years did I ever think this would happen to my family. There were a lot of emotions that we went through initially & still are going through. It has been a rollercoaster of emotions, disappointments & frustrations.

One of those frustrations was in January 2005 when I got a call from my husband & he informed me he would be heading "out" soon. I picked up my Permanent Dividen Fund application packet & asked him to help me fill out his so I could submit it with the General Power of Attorney I had. I was told that if I did it online it would be easy. The process was anything BUT easy! I was told via email that,

"Despite the fact that you may have a Power of Attorney for your husband, he is still physically able to sign his own application. He will have to sign before he will receive his 2005 dividend. When the application is processed, it will go through the intial review stage, and your husband will be mailed a letter requesting his signature. If you are in contact with your husband and he can sign the application and get it USPS postmarked back to us by March 31, 2005, you may want to do that. Or, you can mail in the application and we will process it and send your husband a signature page.

Please ensure you provide us with a copy of the Power of Attorney so we have it for our records and can discuss his application with you." (taken from the actual rejection email I received)

Now, I am a person who follows protocol & rules as a teacher, but I was so frustrated & confused by this rejection letter. My husband was going into a Combat Zone & the PFD office was more concerned over follow the proper protocol! I knew that I was not the only military spouse going through this, so that is when I decided to contact Representative Mike Chenault's office. I was told at a meeting the month before my husband left that having General Power of Attorney meant I could conduct official business on behalf of my husband's part. I even sent the PFD office a copy of the General Power of Attorney paperwork along with the 2 sets of orders for my husband. I sent 13 pages of documentation that proved that I in fact had General Power of Attorney for my husband. In the next 3 to 4 weeks. NEVER did the PFD office leave a message at my work phone number, home phone number or my cellular number. All of which they had. I found this very impersonal. All of my contact with them was via email. I tried calling the PFD office & I even left messages, but I never spoke to a human being.

Although my husband has email/computer access, I can count on 1 hand the number of times my husband has emailed me from Iraq. The soldiers have to sign up for their time on the

computers, & that time is only 20 or 30 minutes long. Internet connection can sometimes be tricky since they use jammers for security reasons, thus breaking phone connections. The power was out for 3 days recently in my husband's area, something unexpected for the soldiers, as is the situation in any war. The soldiers in Iraq & other places in the Middle East have an important job to do. Filing their PFD online is the LAST thing that they want to think about doing after a 12 hour shift of military duty. Also, you can imagine, the mailing system can be rather slow & unreliable when you are half way around the world.

I am very proud to say that my husband is serving his country, as are my children. I know that he has a long & difficult task before him, just as we do on the homefront. The PFD office has NO clue what they are talking about when they ask for my husband's signature, using the internet & sending things via email. My husband is a very busy soldier, doing what soldiers do in a combat situation. THIS takes priority over physically filling out a PFD form. THAT is what General Power of Attorney is for.

It is time that the PFD Dept. take a long hard look at their policies & seriously think about modifying some of the rules & policies, particularly when it comes to military spouses & their soldiers. As time goes by, more & more soldiers from Alaska are being deployed. Other spouses & soldiers will have to deal with the stress & headaches I have had to endure. The situation we military wives are in, is stressful enough! I beg you to please consider passing HB 201, not just for me, but for ALL Alaskan soldiers & their families. My husband is serving his country for goodness sake, doesn't that mean anything to anyone anymore?

Thank you for your time!

Linda L. Zimmerman  
4/5th Multiage Educator  
Student Council Coordinator  
Nikiski North Star Elementary

"The 6 Pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, & Citizenship. Have you hugged your PILLARS today?"