

HB

284

Liberry

Before the State Affairs Committee, Alaska State Legislature
Written testimony of Demian A. Schane in support of HB 284 (PFD Allowable Absences:
Fellowships)

January 24, 2008

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Demian Schane, and I am a resident of Juneau, Alaska. I currently work for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, but I would like to make clear that I give this testimony as an individual and on my own behalf. I do not represent the views of my agency or the federal government.

I applaud the efforts of Representative Hawker and urge all legislative staff to support HB 284. I believe it is important, and the current PFD statute already does this to a certain extent, to support residents who leave the State for educational purposes or to serve the country and State (e.g., to serve in the military, in Congress, in the U.S. Peace Corps, or on the U.S. Olympic Team). The proposed amendment adds one more excusable absence that I believe is a worthy one.

Every year, a handful of Alaskans are offered fellowship opportunities to live abroad in the pursuit of educational and/or vocational training. I personally spent 10 months in Iceland on a U.S. Fulbright grant studying the European Union's mechanisms for regulating escapes from farm fishing operations. It was a uniquely rewarding experience and an honor and privilege to represent the U.S. and Alaska in Iceland.

The Fulbright Program is funded through the U.S. Department of State and it promotes a cultural and educational exchange program in numerous foreign countries. The grantees can enroll in a foreign university or conduct research independently under the auspices of a university or professional organization. During the grant period, grantees will typically meet with the staff of the U.S. embassy and the host country's counterparts. The host country may also offer a variety of forums to foster the exchange of ideas, experiences, and values. For example, in Iceland, there were conferences on international seafood trade, aquaculture innovations, and genetic impacts on wild fish populations from farmed fish escapes. In short, the program offers U.S. citizens an opportunity to further their understanding of issues and policies of international significance and experience how other cultures endeavor to resolve them.

U.S. sponsored fellowships such as the U.S. Fulbright Program are professionally and personally rewarding. I hope that the Legislature recognizes and supports its fellow Alaskans' efforts to pursue such opportunities by allowing them to do so without losing their residential status and eligibility for a PFD disbursement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Demian A. Schane
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Juneau, AK 99801
907-463-5145

dschane@gmail.com

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Amendment # _____

Conceptual
AMENDMENT

To Bill Number _____

Sponsor: _____

BY Date: _____ Logged By: _____

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 284

- 1 Page 3, line 18, following "January 1"
- 2 DELETE "2009"
- 3 INSERT "2005"

*They decided
not to do it,
per Paulyn*

FAX COVER SHEET

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NUMBER OF PAGES
(including cover sheet): 2

DATE SENT 1/23/8 TIME 4:17 SENT BY MaryEllen

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NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS: from Ch. 69, SLA 2003

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Ch. 70

TEMPORARY AND SPECIAL ACTS

From Ch. 69, SLA 2003
28

APPLICATIONS. Notwithstanding permanent fund dividend application procedures in AS 43.23.008, an individual who qualifies for a dividend for 2003 because of the amendment to AS 43.23.008(a) made in sec. 1 of this Act, or who may apply on behalf of another who qualifies because of the amendment, may apply for the dividend by September 15, 2003. The Department of Revenue shall prepare a form for applications under this section.

• Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:
RETROACTIVITY. Section 1 of this Act is retroactive to January 1, 2002. ←

• Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Approved: June 11, 2003
Effective: June 12, 2003;
section 1 is retroactive to January 1, 2002

CHAPTER 70

AN ACT RELATING TO COST-OF-LIVING BENEFITS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM WHO ARE CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SB 177

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska

Sections 1 and 2. Permanent law. See Table of Disposition of Acts.

• Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:
RETROACTIVITY. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are retroactive to January 1, 2003.

• Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Approved: June 11, 2003
Effective: June 12, 2003;
sections 1 and 2 are retroactive to January 1, 2003

CHAPTER 71

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FINANCING FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, MAINTENANCE, EQUIPMENT, AND OPERATION OF A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS RECOVERED FROM THE NORTH SLOPE OF THIS STATE; AUTHORIZING THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION TO ISSUE BONDS TO FINANCE THOSE FACILITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

CSHB 267(FIN)

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska

• Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:
FINDINGS, INTENT, AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that:

- (1) the Alaska Railroad Corporation is uniquely suited to serve essential functions of the state by providing financing for a facility for the transportation of certain natural gas resources located within the state;
- (2) providing financing for that facility furthers the purposes of both the state and the Alaska Railroad Corporation by assuring that the state's natural gas resources will be transported to their appropriate markets, thus creating revenue for the Alaska Railroad Corporation and for the state and providing employment opportunities for residents of the state;
- (3) the facility also will enhance and improve the state's ability to develop and transport other natural resources of the state, including oil and gas resources located off the North Slope of this state; and

TRANSACTION REPORT

JAN-23-2008 04:18 AM

FOR: REP LYNN

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RECEIVE

DATE	START	SENDER	PAGES	TIME	NOTE
JAN-23	04:18 AM	907 465 2029	2	53"	OK

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature



House Bill 284 Sponsor Statement

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Short Title: PFD Allowable Absence: Fellowships

HB 284 corrects an inequity in our statutes regarding allowable absences for Permanent Fund Dividends. Current law provides for an allowable absence for students who are "receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state." For some reason, the above statutory language has been interpreted by regulation to exclude students who are participating in an international educational exchange under a U.S. Fulbright Scholarship.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, which was signed into law by President Truman in 1946, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Every year, the program sends 800 scholars and professionals, chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential, to more than 150 countries, where they lecture or conduct research in a wide variety of fields.

Those chosen for the Fulbright program represent Alaska and the United States in foreign countries all over the world. Grants are typically for three months to one year. I encourage you to support this bill and correct this inequality in our current law.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 284
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB284-DOR-PFD-1-21-08 Dept. Affected: _____ Revenue: _____
 Title: PFD Allowable Absence Fellowships RDU: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Component: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Sponsor: Reps. Heister, Kertula
 Requester: House State Affairs Component Number: 981

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Travel	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Contractual	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Supplies	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Equipment	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Land & Structures	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Grants & Claims	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Miscellaneous	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
TOTAL OPERATING	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
1003 OF Match	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
1004 OF	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
1006 OF-Program Receipts	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
1037 OF-Mental Health	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
1050 PFD Fund	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
TOTAL	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 00

POSITIONS

Full-time	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

PFD already has an education type absence category, and would incorporate this proposed absence reason into the current educational category, within its forms and databases. The financial effect to the operating expenses of the PFD program are anticipated to be minimal.

Prepared by: Amy Skow, Division Manager
 Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Approved by: Jerry Burnett
Department of Revenue

Phone: (907) 495-4784
 Date/Time: 1/18/08 4:38 PM
 Date: 1/21/2008



ABOUT - FULBRIGHT

Page location: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about.html>

"Fostering leadership, learning and empathy between cultures was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program." - Senator J. William Fulbright

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM:

- Is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
- Is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.
- Was established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to "enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."
- Awarded approximately six thousand grants in 2006, at a cost of more than \$235 million, to U.S. students, teachers, professionals, and scholars to study, teach, lecture, and conduct research in more than 150 countries, and to their foreign counterparts to engage in similar activities in the United States.
- Receives its primary source of funding through an annual appropriation from Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries, and in the United States, also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, e.g., through salary supplements, tuition waivers, and university housing.



J. William Fulbright

In This Section

Program History

The origins and development of the Fulbright Program, outlining its mission and vision.

U.S. Department of State

The role of the U.S. Department of State in the Fulbright Program.

Program Design

The U.S. Student Program

ABOUT - PROGRAM HISTORY

Page location: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about_programhistory.html

"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs, and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship." - J. William Fulbright

In 1945, Senator J. William Fulbright introduced a bill in the United States Congress that called for the use of proceeds from the sale of surplus war property to fund the "promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science."

On August 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill into law, and Congress created the Fulbright Program.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) was created by Congress to supervise the Fulbright Program. This 12-member Board, appointed by the President of the United States, works in cooperation with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, binational Fulbright Commissions and Foundations, and Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies abroad, to administer the Program. The FSB sets policies and procedures for administration of the Fulbright Program, has final authority for selection of all grantees, and supervises the conduct of the program both in the United States and abroad. [Click here for a complete list of current FSB members.](#)

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation from Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries, and in the United States, also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, e.g., through salary supplements, tuition waivers, and university housing.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is now the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. The U.S. Student Program currently awards approximately 1,300 grants annually in all fields of study, and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Since the establishment of the Program, more than 45,000 students from the United States and 148,000 students from other countries have benefited from the Fulbright experience.

The Fulbright Program has provided more than 250,000 participants, chosen for their leadership potential, with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas, and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.

U.S. Fulbright Student alumni populate an entire range of professions and include heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, Members of Congress, judges, heads of corporations, university presidents, journalists, artists, professors, and teachers. Actor John Lithgow, composer Philip Glass, opera singer Renee Fleming and economist Joseph Stiglitz are among notable former grantees.

- From its inception, the Fulbright Program has fostered bilateral relationships in which other countries and governments work with the U.S. to set joint priorities and shape the Program to meet shared needs. The world has been transformed in ensuing decades, but the fundamental principle of international partnership remains at the core of the Fulbright mission.



President Harry S. Truman signs the Fulbright Act into law, 1946.



President John F. Kennedy signs the Fulbright-Hays Act into law, 1961.

ABOUT - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Page location: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about_us.html

The United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors the Fulbright Program under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) and in cooperation with binational Fulbright Commissions/Foundations and Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies abroad.

As the administrative and executive arm of the Fulbright Program, the Bureau has fiscal responsibility for the preparation of an annual budget request to Congress and makes decisions on funding allocations to participating countries. Under policies established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, ECA also holds primary responsibility for the administration of the Program, together with the assistance of cooperating non-profit organizations. The Bureau's contribution to the Fulbright Program in 2006 amounted to \$184.6 million.

Within a U.S. Embassy abroad (the Post), exchange-program activities are the responsibility of a Public Affairs Officer (PAO) or a Cultural Affairs Officer (CAO). At least one of these officers is a member of the local Binational Commission and maintains liaison with the Commission on policy and program matters on behalf of the Bureau. In countries without a Commission, the PAO or CAO administers the educational exchange program.

[HTTP://US.FULBRIGHTONLINE.ORG/THINKING_ELIGIBILITY.HTML](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_eligibility.html)

Page location: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about_programdesign.html

THE U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM:

Awards grants to U.S. citizens in all fields of study

Operates in more than 140 countries worldwide

- Award more than 1,400 grants to U.S. students to study overseas
- Offers one academic year of study, research, or teaching assistantship experience
- Projects may include university course work, independent library or field research, or professional training in the arts.
- Preference will be given to candidates who have not had extensive recent experience abroad (excluding recent undergraduate study abroad), especially in the country of applications

THE U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR:

- Recent BA/BS graduates,
- Master's, and doctoral candidates
- Young professionals, including writers, journalists, and those in law, business, and other professional fields
- Artists and musicians

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature

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House Finance Committee
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Fair River
Anchorage
Rainbow
Indian
Bird
Girdwood
Portage
Whittier
Sunrise
Hope

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Mike Hawker



Date: January 16, 2008

Re: House Bill 284

I request that House Bill 284, which would add the Fulbright Scholar Program to the list of allowable absences for Permanent Fund Dividends, be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

The Fulbright is the largest U.S. international exchange program, allowing students, scholars and professionals to pursue graduate study, advanced research and teaching opportunities abroad. Scholars are sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and represent our state and country in more than 140 foreign countries.

Attached you will find the current version of the bill, a sponsor statement and some background materials. Please feel free to contact me, or my legislative aide, Juli Lucky, if you need any additional information.