

**SB**

**147**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 147</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
147</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN29</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/3/16

FURTHER:

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

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 147

## SB 147 SENIOR BENEFITS PROG. ELIGIBILITY

"An Act relating to eligibility requirements of the Alaska senior benefits payment program; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

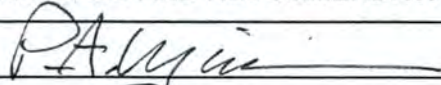
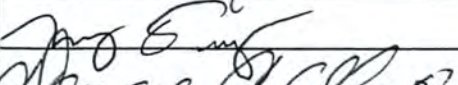
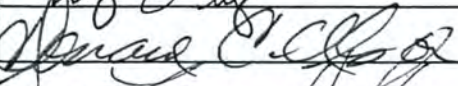

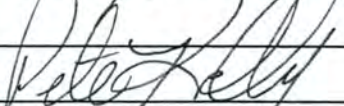

- [ ] be replaced with CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) [ ] Same Title [ ] New Title
- [x] adopt previous CS SB 147 (HSS) [x] Same Title [ ] New Title
- [ ] attached amendment(s)
- [ ] adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- [ ] further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
EED	MVA
DEC	DNR
DFG	DPS
GOV	REV
DHS	DOT
AJS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DHS	✓			2

[ ] APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	MICCHE	✓			
	DUNSLAVY			✓	
	OLSON			✓	
	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Kelly	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Mackinnon	✓			

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
907-465-3500  
fax: 907-465-3532



Governor Bill Walker  
STATE OF ALASKA

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-7450  
fax 907-269-7461  
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov  
Governor@Alaska.Gov

January 18, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Meyer  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Meyer:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill amending eligibility requirements for the Alaska senior benefits payment program.

The bill proposes to add an additional qualifying criterion to the eligibility requirements for the senior benefits payment program. An individual must be either a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under 8 United States Code 1641, in addition to meeting existing age, state residency, financial and program application criteria. This change would align the eligibility requirements of the Alaska senior benefits payment program with other public assistance programs and allow continued assistance to eligible seniors in a fiscally responsible manner.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker  
Governor

Enclosure

SENATE BILL NO. 147

Senate Bill 147 Sectional Analysis

Prepared by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

January 20, 2016

SB 147, "An Act relating to eligibility requirements of the Alaska senior benefits payment program; and providing for an effective date."

Sectional Analysis:

- Section 1 Establishes that a beneficiary of the Senior Benefits program be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under 8 USC 1613 and 8 USC 1641, consistent with other Alaska public assistance programs.
- Section 2 Provides that the Act takes effect on July 1, 2016.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2016 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 147(HSS)
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(S) Publish Date:	2/3/2016

Identifier: SB147-DHSS-SBPP-1-23-16  
 Title: SENIOR BENEFITS PROG. ELIGIBILITY  
 Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR  
 Requester: Senate HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services  
 Appropriation: Public Assistance  
 Allocation: Senior Benefits Payment Program  
 OMB Component Number: 2897

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits			(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund			(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)	(43.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 06/30/16

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable; initial version.
----------------------------------

Prepared By:	Sean O'Brien	Phone:	(907)465-5847
Division:	Public Assistance	Date:	01/23/2016 08:37 AM
Approved By:	Sana Efird, Asst. Commissioner, Finance and Management Services	Date:	01/23/16
Agency:	Health and Social Services		

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

When the Senior Benefits Program was initially designed, it adopted many of the same eligibility criteria as Alaska's Adult Public Assistance Program. As a result, all Adult Public Assistance recipients are also eligible for Senior Benefits. However, when the Senior Benefits Payment Program was designed, the Adult Public Assistance program's United States citizen and/or qualified alien requirement was overlooked.

Addition of this criterion to the Senior Benefits program would more closely align the two programs.

The change would provide for an overall annual program savings of \$43.2. Since the Division of Public Assistance administers both programs, the change would make the Senior Benefits Payment Program easier to administer. Changes to Title 7 Alaska Administrative Code 47.547 will be necessary to amend the language with the corresponding change in statute.