

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
CSHJR 57(STA)

Legislative
Resolve No.
77



Requesting the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to omit the Alaska permanent fund dividend and the Alaska longevity bonus from gross income for purposes of making payment calculations applicable to certain housing assistance programs.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, for purposes of eligibility of its housing assistance programs, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development calculates monthly payments on the annual adjusted gross income of the individual or family making application; and

WHEREAS, for the benefit of its residents, the State of Alaska sponsors and supports two unique programs, the Alaska permanent fund dividend program and the longevity bonus program; and

WHEREAS the amount received from both sources is currently regarded as income by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as the agency determines annual adjusted gross income for rent calculations; and

WHEREAS the amount of the permanent fund dividend, paid annually to state residents, has varied, based upon the earnings of the permanent fund dividend account, from a low of \$331 to a high of \$1,000, averaging \$670 since inception; and

WHEREAS the dividend is paid in one check, typically received by the applicant

within the last three-month period of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS the longevity bonus, payable to state residents 65 years of age and older, was instituted by the legislature to encourage and assist senior citizens to remain in Alaska during retirement; and

WHEREAS receipt of the longevity bonus, now \$250 a month payable monthly, in combination with income from other sources, may place senior citizens above the income limits for housing assistance; and

WHEREAS some senior citizens may choose to forego applying for the longevity bonus in order to stay within the income limits for housing assistance; and

WHEREAS the practice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of treating the receipts of these two programs as income is inconsistent with its efforts and the efforts of the state to assure that the state's low-income residents secure and maintain the benefits of decent housing and self-sufficiency through eventual homeownership and with the state's interest and efforts to allow senior citizens to maintain themselves in their own homes rather than relocating to communal residences and institutions; and

WHEREAS the omission of the amounts received under the state's two programs from the definition of adjusted gross income for purposes of payment calculations would enable more citizens to benefit from the department's housing initiatives;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is respectfully requested to approve as a waiver the Alaska permanent fund dividend program and the longevity bonus program in determining annual adjusted gross income for purposes of payment calculations for the department's housing assistance programs.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jack Kemp, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.