

Should this item be pulled from the consent agenda, the following motion would be in order:

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2016-16 on first and final reading.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, SUPPORTING PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION – AN ACT ALLOWING QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO REGISTER TO VOTE WHEN APPLYING FOR A PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND

WHEREAS, every eligible Alaskan citizen, regardless of political affiliation, race, color, creed, sex, or national origin, has a fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS, rural communities, military families, and individuals who move frequently do not have adequate online and physical access to accurate voter registration processes; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of Alaskan residents apply for the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) annually, and 83% of PFD applicants file online through electronic processing; and

WHEREAS, "PFD Automatic Voter Registration" has been proposed for the General Election ballot of 2016 to allow simultaneous voter registration when an eligible citizen applies for the yearly Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD); and

WHEREAS, the Division of Elections estimates that approximately 70,000 eligible Alaska citizens could become new, registered voters within the first year of passage; and

WHEREAS, the PFD Division already utilizes comprehensive fraud detection analysis that would prevent voter registration fraud, rendering Alaska to have the most accurate voter database in the nation; and

WHEREAS, PFD Automatic Voter Registration would save money, as a PEW Foundation study demonstrated that processing electronic registrations cost ten times less than paper processing; and

WHEREAS, PFD Automatic Voter Registration would make government more efficient, reducing bureaucracy and paperwork by using the PFD's existing strict processing system; and

WHEREAS, PFD Automatic Voter Registration would regularly update addresses and register new eligible voters on an annual basis, making Alaska the highest rate of registered voters in the nation.

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48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough
49 of Sitka, Alaska, that it supports the proposition of PFD Automatic Voter Registration as
50 proposed on the General Election ballot of 2016.

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52 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough
53 of Sitka, Alaska this 13th day of September, 2016.

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Mim McConnell, Mayor

59 ATTEST:

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62
63 _____
64 Sara Peterson, CMC
Municipal Clerk



OVERVIEW

Contact Information:

Facebook:

Facebook.com/pfdvoter

Website:

PFDvoter.com

Email:

campaign@pfdvoter.com

Summary:

PFD Voter Registration is a commonsense proposal for streamlining government services and improving access to democracy, inspired by recent, similar successes in Oregon and other states. If passed, any voter-eligible Alaskan who applies for their annual Permanent Fund Dividend will be automatically registered to vote if unregistered, or have their registration updated if it's out of date.

Timeline:

In May 2015, project partners determined that this proposal was feasible, that the governor could not implement it unilaterally, and that the current legislature was unlikely to implement via legislation. In June 2015, the team submitted a ballot initiative application to the lieutenant governor's office, approved in August 2015, and then registered with the Alaska Public Offices Commission as a Ballot Initiative Group. In September 2015, the group launched a drive to gather the required 28,500 signatures from Alaskan voters before the start of the 2016 Alaska Legislative Session. In January 2016, the group submitted over 42,000 signatures to the Division of Elections. The Division of Elections certified the signatures in March 2016, and the initiative is now slated for a popular vote in the statewide general election on November 8th, 2016.

Impacts:

>10% Increase in Total Registered Voters:

The Alaska Division of Elections has publicly projected that this initiative could result in as many as 70,000 newly registered voters in year one. (Currently Alaska has about 500,000 registered voters.)

Comprehensive, Annual Updates to Registration

Get Out the Native Vote projects that there may be as many as 30-40,000 Alaskans registered in rural communities but living in urban areas, who are not reached by GOTV efforts in the status quo. (Over 95% of AK population applies for PFD annually.)

Enfranchising Marginalized Communities:

We project that many of these new voters would come from historically disenfranchised minority communities, whom census data shows are significantly underrepresented in today's voter rolls. For example, Alaska Natives make up 16-18% of the population of Alaska, but only 7-9% of the electorate.

Cost Savings:

Research by the Pew Foundation and the National Center on Budget and Policy Priorities indicate a proposal of this nature could save the State more than 10% on registration processing costs.



ORGANIZATION

Coalition – Local

AARP of Alaska
Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
ACLU of Alaska
AFL-CIO AK & Affiliates
Alaska Conservation Voters & Affiliates
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
(12) Alaska Native Corporations
ANCSA Regional Association
BP Alaska
Bush Caucus – Alaska State Legislature
Coastal Villages Regional Fund
Get Out the Native Vote
Great Alaska Schools
League of Women Voters of Alaska
NEA—AK
NAACP AK
Our Alaska
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Coalition – National

AFL-CIO
AFSCME
AFT
Ballot Initiative Strategies Center
Brennan Justice Center
Center for Secure and Modern Elections
Common Cause
Demos
Democracy Initiative
Lawyers Committee
League of Conservation Voters
LIUNA
NEA
New Venture Fund
Oregon BUS

PFD VOTER REGISTRATION

Process:

What will the post-initiative process look like? How does voter information move through the various agencies currently handling PFD applications and voter registration?

The PFD Application collects new and updated registration information from the applicant. This information remains confidential except to: local, state, and federal agencies, banks handling direct deposits of PFD funds, a court order, by direction of the applicant, or by the DoE under AS 43.23.016



Once per year, after the end of the PFD Application period, this information is transferred to the DoE, which manages voter registration.

*Note: at this point, the PFD Division's (and DoR's) role is **complete for that calendar year**, other than data storage.*



DoE organizes the voter registration information into 2 lists: one comprised of **potential new voters**, the second of **updated addresses**.



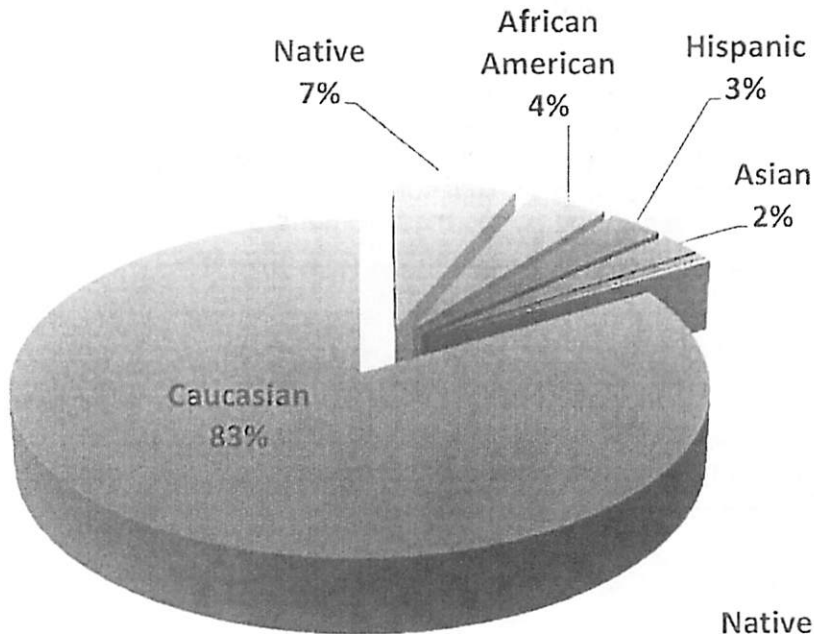
The DoE notifies the potential newly registered voters by mail that they may **choose to declare a party registration**, or may chose to **opt-out** of voter registration. DoE then processes returned notifications.



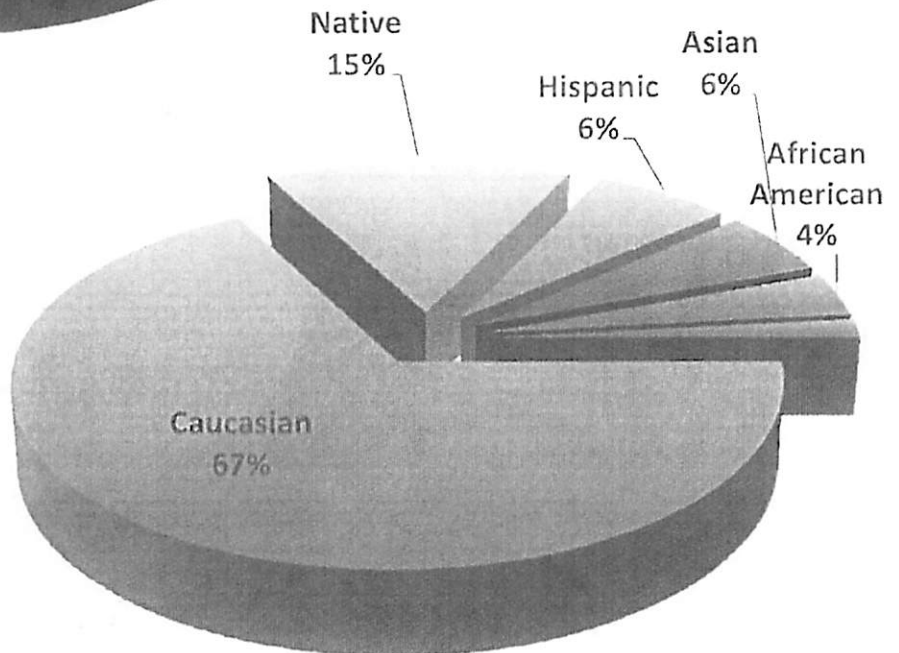
At this point the DoE will add all new registrants who did not opt out to the voter rolls, and complete all registration updates.

PFD VOTER REGISTRATION

Active Registered Voters (420,659)



General Population (736,732)



PAID FOR BY: PFD Voter Registration, Anchorage AK.
This communication approved by Kim Reitmeier, Chair.

Election Day is November 8th. [Click Here](#) to Make Sure Your Voter Registration is Up to Date



THE INITIATIVE

BENEFITS

FAQ

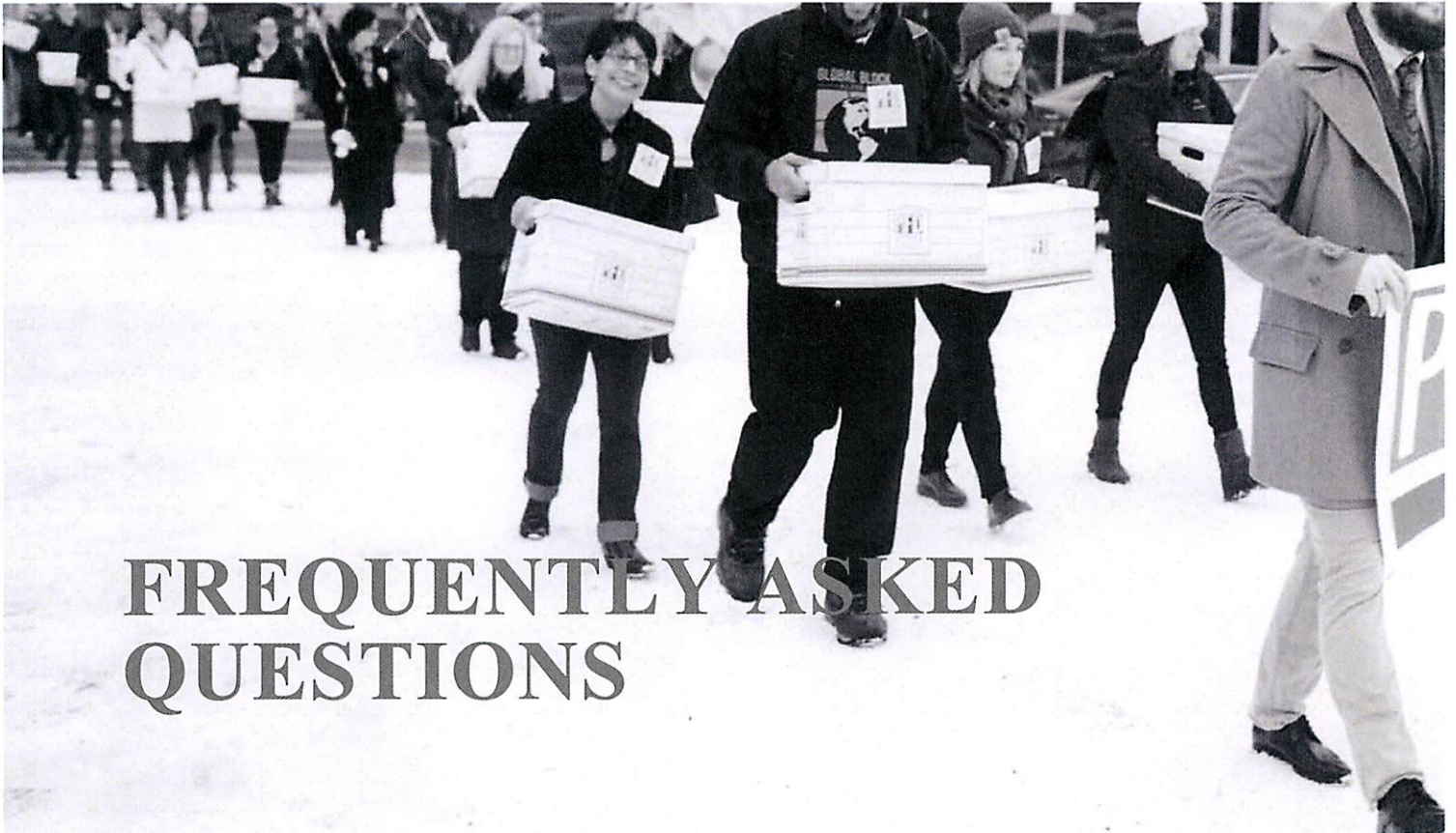
MEDIA

COALITION

SIGN UP

CONTACT

DONATE



Q: WHERE DID THIS IDEA COME FROM?

A: This idea was the shared result of hard work from the Lieutenant Governor's Elections Reform Working Group, as well as from many individual Alaskans who were committed to finding ways to improve our voting system. The idea was also inspired by the successful "New Moter Voter" law that passed in

Oregon in 2014, and will register hundreds of thousands of Oregonians to vote through the Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE BALLOT INITIATIVE?

A: We are currently gathering signatures and support for the PFD voter initiative. Approximately 28,000 signatures from Alaskan voters (10% of the voter turnout in the 2014 General Election), must be submitted to the Division of Elections by the start of the 2016 Legislative Session in January. Once these signatures are submitted and verified, Alaskans will be able to vote on this initiative on either the Primary or the General Election ballot in 2016, depending on when the Legislature adjourns.

Q: WHO ARE THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE INITIATIVE?

A: There are three co-chairs of the initiative. Aaron Schutt is the President and CEO of Doyon Ltd. an Alaska Native Corporation headquartered in Fairbanks, and was born and raised in Tok. Kim Reitmeier is the President of the ANCSA Regional Association, previously worked in the oil pipeline industry, and was a recipient of Alaska's top 40 under 40 award. Tim Kacillas is a US Army veteran who served in Afghanistan and is now finishing his degree at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Q: WILL WE STILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE LIKE WE CURRENTLY DO?

A: Yes. This initiative does not change the conventional voter registration system, it adds an additional way for Alaskans to become registered to vote. Alaskans who do not receive a PFD or who want to update their registration manually may still do so using the regular form from the Division of Elections.

Q: VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS ARE PUBLIC. WERE

THERE PRIVACY CONCERNS IN DRAFTING THIS INITIATIVE?

A: Alaska has some of the most stringent confidentiality protections for voter registration in the country. Information such as the voter's age, date of birth, social security number, driver's license number, place of birth, and signature is all protected. In addition, voters have the option to keep their place of residency confidential. The initiative will not change the confidentiality of any of this voter information. But any Alaskan who still has concerns about privacy can choose to opt out of being registered to vote through the PFD.

Q: WHAT ABOUT POTENTIAL VOTER FRAUD?

A: The Permanent Fund Dividend Division has stringent requirements for proof of identity, and some of the most sophisticated fraud detection resources in State government. Every year, there are only a handful of publicized cases of attempted PFD fraud, in which individuals are subject to felony prosecution and other serious consequences. This ballot initiative harnesses the resources we already invest in detecting PFD fraud, and brings them to bear against potential voter fraud as well. However, there is little-to-no evidence of voter fraud in Alaska.

Q: ISN'T THIS AIMED AT A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOING TO VOTE ANYWAY?

A: Reducing the number of forms that people have to fill out, saving tax dollars by transitioning to online registration and making our Government more efficient are benefits that affect all Alaskans. But it's also true that some Alaskans don't think about politics until the end of an election cycle because they're living their regular lives. When Election Day comes and they turn their attention to politics, it's too late for them to register to vote. This initiative solves this problem for people that want to participate, in a way that is accurate and secure.

Q: WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN UNDER 18 OR FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO MAY RECEIVE A PFD?

A: PFD applicants are required to prove their age and citizenship, and these data-points are retained in the PFD database. PFD applicants who are not of voting age, not US citizens, or otherwise ineligible to vote will not be registered via the process prescribed in this initiative.

Q: DOES THIS INITIATIVE FORCE SOMEONE TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

A: No! In the first place, no one is forced to apply for the PFD. But more importantly, the ballot initiative includes an opt out feature, so that a PFD applicant may decline to be registered to vote via their PFD, through communication with the Division of Elections.

Q: WILL THIS INITIATIVE AFFECT MY ABILITY TO GET MY PFD?

A: No. This initiative has no bearing on PFD eligibility. The initiative simply uses information that already exists in the PFD database to update voter registration.

HELPFUL FACTS ABOUT PFD VOTER REGISTRATION:

- The PFD Division currently provides filtered data for several other State departments and programs, including the Pick-Click-Give charitable donation program, the UA College Savings Fund, and Department of Fish & Game license registration.
- The PFD Division recently set up a program called RRFI (Request Permanent Fund Information) to streamline the transmission of PFD data to other government departments when

requested.

- A study by the Pew Foundation, entitled "The Real Costs of Voter Registration", has shown that online voter registration can reduce the costs of processing registration applications by more than 10%.

This communication was Paid For By PFD Voter Registration, 8401 Pioneer Dr., Anchorage, AK and was approved by Kim Reitmeier, Chair. The top 3 contributors are ANCSA Regional Association, Anchorage, AK; New Venture Fund, Washington, DC; and The Alaska Center, Anchorage, AK.

Election Day is November 8th. [Click Here](#) to Make Sure Your Voter Registration is Up to Date



- THE INITIATIVE
- BENEFITS**
- FAQ
- MEDIA
- COALITION
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- DONATE



REDUCE BUREACRACY AND PAPERWORK

Eligible Alaskan citizens can now apply for their PFD and register to vote at the same time, using a simple, modern, and safe online application system. Rather than having to remember to re-register every time they move and bother with paperwork and forms, Alaskans who use the PFD can count on an annual and automatic registration update, and the information already entered for a PFD can do “double duty.”

INCREASE VOTER

MAKE GOVERNMENT

REGISTRATION

A 2011 Division of Elections report found that approximately 70,000 Alaskans qualify for the PFD, but are not registered to vote.

ENGAGE ALASKANS

The initiative provides Alaskans with an easy, convenient path to voting. Young Alaskans, new residents, non-English speakers, members of the military, and Alaskans with disabilities are all populations that face unique challenges with maintaining up to date voter registration and keeping up with the paperwork. The initiative eases voting access for these Alaskans.

SAVE MONEY

83% of PFD applicants file their application online. A Pew study has shown that processing electronic registrations costs ten times less than paper processing. (“Real Cost of Voter Registration” - Pew).

MORE EFFICIENT

PFD registration reduces the workload at Division of Elections, while making the money we already spend on the PFDs application and fraud detection systems go further.

PREVENT VOTER REGISTRATION FRAUD

The PFD Division conducts a comprehensive fraud detection analysis, and aggressively pursues potential fraud cases. The initiative will capitalize on this analysis, and allow the Division of Elections to benefit from the fraud detection work already underway.

IMPROVE REGISTRATION ACCURACY

Online voter registration through the PFD reduces the possibility of mistakes that can disenfranchise voters. By making the process a seamless electronic one without the transfer of paper, the potential for data entry errors is drastically reduced.

**Young Alaskans, Alaskans who move
Frequently, Alaskans in the Military,
Rural Alaskans ... PFD Voter
Registration helps all ALASKANS keep
their voter registration current and cuts
down on paperwork.**

READ THE FULL INITIATIVE HERE

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**AN INITIATIVE TO
ALLOW QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO REGISTER TO VOTE
WHEN SUBMITTING A PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND APPLICATION**

A Bill By Initiative
For An Act Entitled

“An Act relating to the permanent fund dividend application and the registration of voters; and providing for an effective date.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

***Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a section to read:

FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The People of the State of Alaska find:

- (1) the cornerstone of American democracy is the right to vote;
- (2) the state should not introduce needless bureaucratic requirements that make it more difficult for qualified citizens to exercise their right to vote;
- (3) the State of Alaska currently requires individuals who wish to receive a permanent fund dividend to submit an annual application to the State;
- (4) PFD applicants who also wish to register to vote, or to update their voter registration, must submit information to the State a second time, using a different form;
- (5) the State can relieve qualified voters who apply for a PFD from the burden of having to complete additional paperwork; and
- (6) the State can use PFD-application data to ensure voter-registration data are current.

***Section 2.** AS 15.07.050(a) is amended to read:

- (a) Registration may be made
 - (1) in person before a registration official or through a voter registration agency;
 - (2) by another individual on behalf of the voter if the voter has executed a written general power of attorney or a written special power of attorney authorizing that other individual to register the voter;
 - (3) by mail; [OR]
 - (4) by facsimile transmission, scanning, or another method of electronic transmission that the director approves; or
 - (5) by completing a permanent fund dividend application under AS 43.23.015.

*Sec. 3. AS 15.07.060(e) is amended to read:

(e) For an applicant requesting initial registration by mail, [OR] by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, or completing a permanent fund dividend application, the director shall verify the information provided in compliance with (a)(2) and (3) of this section through state agency records described in AS 15.07.055(e). If the applicant cannot comply with the requirement of (a)(2) of this section because the applicant has not been issued any of the listed numbers, the applicant may instead submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license.

* Sec. 4. AS 15.07.070(f) is amended to read:

(f) Incomplete or inaccurate registration forms may not be accepted. A person who submitted an incomplete or inaccurate registration form may register by reexecuting and resubmitting a registration form in person, by mail, or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050. The requirements of (c) or (d) of this section apply to a registration form resubmitted under this subsection. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an application made under AS 43.23.015 that contains the information required by AS 15.07.060(a)(1)-(4) and (7)-(9), and an attestation that such information is true, shall not be deemed an incomplete registration form, and shall be accepted in accordance with AS 15.07.070(i).

* Sec. 5. AS 15.07.070 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(i) The division shall register voters who submit an application to receive a permanent fund dividend in accordance with this subsection.

(1) The division shall cooperate with the Department of Revenue under AS 43.23.016 to ensure that the permanent fund dividend application form furnished by the Department of Revenue under AS 43.23.015 allows an applicant, a person who is designated in a power of attorney to act on behalf of an applicant, or a person acting on behalf of a physically disabled applicant to submit voter registration information required under AS 15.07.060(a)(1)-(4) and (7)-(9), and an attestation that such information is true. The director may require proof of identification of the applicant, if not already in the Department of Revenue's possession, as required by regulations adopted by the director under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

(2) Upon receipt of the registration information, the director shall, as soon as practicable and in accordance with a schedule established by the director by rule, notify by U.S. mail, and any other means authorized by the director, each applicant not already registered to vote at the address provided in the applicant's application

(A) of the processes to

- (i) decline to be registered as a voter,
- (ii) maintain an existing voter registration, or be newly registered, at a valid place of residence not the provided in the applicant's application, and
- (iii) adopt a political party affiliation;

and

- (B) that failure to respond to the notification shall constitute the applicant's consent to cancel any registration to vote in another jurisdiction.

(3) If an applicant does not decline to be registered as a voter within 30 calendar days after the director issues the notification, the application under AS 43.23.015 will constitute a completed registration form. The name of the applicant shall be placed on the master register if the director determines that the person is qualified to vote under AS 15.05.010, and the director shall forward to the applicant a registration card. If registration is denied, the applicant shall immediately be informed in writing that registration was denied and the reason for denial.

(4) Any person who is not eligible to vote and who becomes registered under this provision through human or mechanical error shall not be found on that basis to have had the intent to unlawfully register to vote.

***Sec. 6.** AS 43.23.015(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall prescribe and furnish an application form for claiming a permanent fund dividend. The application must include

- (1) notice of the penalties provided for under AS 43.23.035;
- (2) [AND CONTAIN] a statement of eligibility and a certification of residency;

(3) the means for an applicant eligible to vote under AS 15.05, or a person authorized to act on behalf of the applicant, to furnish information required by AS 15.07.060(a)(1)-(4) and (7)-(9), and an attestation that such information is true.

***Sec. 7.** AS 43.23.016 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 43.23.016. Voter registration. The commissioner shall establish by rule a schedule by which the commissioner will provide, and shall provide as soon as is practicable the director of elections with

(a) electronic records from the permanent fund dividend applications of the information required by AS 15.07.060(a)(1)-(4) and (7)-(9), and the attestation that such information is true, for each permanent fund dividend applicant who

- (1) is a citizen of the United States, and
- (2) is at least 18 years of age or will be within 90 days of the date of the application, and

(b) the mailing addresses for all permanent fund dividend applicants.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 43.23.017(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, information [INFORMATION] on each permanent fund dividend application, except the applicant's name, is confidential. The department may only release information that is confidential under this section

- (1) to a local, state, or federal government agency;
- (2) in compliance with a court order;
- (3) to the individual who or agency that files an application on behalf of another;
- (4) to a banking institution to verify the direct deposit of a permanent fund dividend or correct an error in that deposit;
- (5) as directed to do so by the applicant; [AND]
- (6) to a contractor who has a contract with a person entitled to obtain the information under (1) - (5) of this section to receive, store, or manage the information on that person's behalf; a contractor receiving data under this paragraph may only use the data as directed by and for the purposes of the person entitled to obtain the information[.];
- (7) to the division of elections, as required by AS 43.23.016.

***Sec. 9.** AS 43.23.017 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) Information submitted on a permanent fund dividend application that is used for the purpose of registering an applicant to vote under AS 43.23.016 shall be kept confidential by the division of elections as provided in AS 15.07.195.

***Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

It is the intention of the people of Alaska that, if any provision of this Act shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent possible.

***Sec. 11.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

This Act shall take effect 90 days after enactment.