

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Representative Harry Crawford -- District 21
Representative Eric Croft -- District 25

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

SSHJR-3 proposes a constitutional amendment that would give constitutional protection to the dividend program of the Alaska Permanent Fund. It will make the Permanent Fund Dividend permanent.

This resolution is an exact reiteration of the popular initiative proposed by former Governor Jay Hammond earlier this year. SSHJR-3 would require permission from the people by way of popular vote before the Legislature could spend any of the Permanent Fund earnings that would normally go to the dividend.

The Resolution would also maintain the distribution formulas used to calculate the dividend that were in place on July 1, 2002. This will further guarantee that the Permanent Fund Dividend Program will remain intact as it has been in recent years.

With the ongoing budget deficit, it is in the interest of the Alaskan public to guarantee that the dividend on which many people depend be constitutionally protected.