

Fund checks are \$385

Associated Press

Juneau — Qualified Alaskans will receive permanent fund dividend checks of \$386.15 this year, a little more than one-third the size of last year's checks, the Department of Revenue said today.

The department will begin mailing the checks in mid-September at a rate of 30,000 to 35,000 a week through December.

"The sooner people filed for the dividend the sooner they will receive their checks," said Colleen Brown, a spokeswoman for the department.

The department will issue almost \$176.6 million in dividend checks this year to about 455,500 Alaskans, she said.

The checks are for far less than the \$1,000 payments handed out to Alaskans last year — the first year of the dividend program. Last year's program cost \$480 million.

Alaskans must have lived in the state six months to qualify for the dividends. This year, a person who had not lived here six months by March 31 would not qualify.