

Permanent Fund dividend deadline is June 30

Associated Press

Juneau — With less than three weeks before the filing deadline, more than 200,000 eligible Alaskans have not applied for their 1983 Permanent Fund dividends.

The apparent lack of interest or misunderstanding has state officials worried enough that they plan a publicity campaign to remind residents to mail in their applications.

"We're beginning to think there's some confusion about the deadline and people think they have until Oct. 1 to file," said Ervin Jones, director of administrative services for the Department of Revenue.

The applications for this year's dividend, expected to be about \$350, is June 30.

That's assuming the legislature retains the program de-

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Permanent Fund dividend

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spite opposition from Gov. Bill Sheffield. The House narrowly defeated an attempt to abolish the program. Repeal is seen as even less likely in the Senate.

But the legislature has yet to appropriate the \$180 million to fund the dividends.

About 255,000 applications have been received, but Jones estimated between 450,000 and 460,000 Alaskans are eligible. Applicants this year receive written notification that their forms have been received, which should cut down on the number of duplicate applications.

To be eligible, applicants must have lived in Alaska between Oct. 3, 1982, and March 31, 1983. Children born to Alaska residents during that period also are eligible.

Last year about 450,500 checks were mailed, including 3,500 which were returned by the Post Office and 3,600 which were garnished by various state agencies for things like delinquent taxes and child support.

Another 25,000 to 26,000 applications from last year still are being processed, Jones said.

Last year's filing deadline was Oct. 15.