

New cash plan proposed

Every Alaskan, including just-arrived 30-day residents, babies, children and adults may get a one-time check for \$193 from the state if the legislature adopts Gov. Jay Hammonds new cash distribution plan.

This latest plan will divide the premiums from the state's recent royalty oil auction and is designed to be free of legal hassels from the first distribution totaling some \$77 million which was held up in court by Anchorage attorneys Ron and Penny Zoebels. The Zoebels said that claiming to be a long

time resident of our state is unconstitutional in claiming for the first proposed cash distribution from the state.

Any 30-day resident, even those under 18 years old, would be eligible for the cash give away. The custodian of an incapacitated person or the guardian of a minor could apply on behalf of that person, according to the bill.

A total of \$77 million dollars would be handed out to what Hammond's guess of some 400,000 of the states residents. So he divided it all and came up

with the \$193 figure.

Hammond said the state's Department of Revenue can set an application deadline that will give all residents enough time to apply.

What good is \$193 for? Some answers have been...less than an hour's grocery shopping and not much at that, buying some luxury item, getting those little things around the house or car fixed up, making a credit payment, putting the money in savings, buying clothes and taking a trip.

Hammond said the 30-day

residency requirement was included because it is the shortest time possible for state officials to assure that applicants are bona fide residents.

Hammond said a main reason behind the controversial December 11 cash bid auction of some of the state's Prudhoe Bay royalty oil "was to insure that the benefits of selling the state's oil would go to the largest number of Alaska resident."

"Had this oil been sold under a negotiated contract," Hammond said, "the benefits would certainly have accrued to some

state residents. However, all residents would not necessarily have been benefited, and certainly not in equal measure."

Hammond said as a rule, he prefers distributing dividends from the permanent fund to directly handing out revenues from oil production. But he added that "in this limited instance I believe distribution is appropriate and in the public interest."

