

That'll be 22 cents for your \$250 Longevity Bonus check

Longevity Bonus checks were mailed to about 15,600 people in Alaska late last month, and for the first time the bonus recipients will have to pay for their own postage on the stubs which they are required to return to the program by Saturday.

"The state has paid for the return postage ever since the program started in 1973," said Joyce Munson, the division director. "It is a major change, but will save the state more than \$50,000 a year.

"Our operating budget has been reduced, and we can no longer pay

postage costs. Actually 22 cents may seem like a small amount, but with nearly 16,000 people receiving monthly checks, the final postage costs for this program is significant," said Munson.

To be eligible for the \$250 monthly bonus checks, a person must be at least 65 years old and a resident of the state for at least one year immediately before applying. Once approved for the program, recipients qualify for monthly bonuses only if they are physically present in the state and have not been absent for more than 30 days.