Dividend repeal dead

Associated Press

Juneau—A measure — defeated once this session — to repeal the Permanent Fund dividend program may have died Wednesday night when the state Hous of Representatives adjourned.

The bill had been held in the House for several days while proponents tried to find the needed 21 votes for passage.

The repeal measure last week was defeated in a House vote of 18-22, but supporters had moved to have the matter reconsidered.

Wednesday, Rep. Mike Syzmanski, D-Anchorage, admitted defeat, and said he would have allowed the bill to die without another vote.

A possibility remains that a motion to rescind the earlier vote could bring the measure back to life, depending on whether the House comes back long enough to consider it. Dividend repeal could also come on another measure.

Szymanski said he and repeal opponents were discussing a possible compromise that would allow checks to be mailed this year, and repeal coming Jan. 1, 1984. He said discussions also involved a vote in the 1984 general election.