

# Assistance benefits increase

Commissioner Beirne of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has announced that Alaskans who are recipients through any of several assistance programs will receive increased cash payments as of July 1, 1979.

The reason for the increase of 9.9% is that federal benefits for Social Security (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are increasing by that amount; Alaska statutes mandate that the state's Adult Public Assistance (APA) maximum payments increase by the same percentage as the federal allowance.

The 9.9% increase will affect those Alaskans who are eligible for Old Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Blind (AB), or Aid to the Disabled (AD). As an example, the state maximum payment to an eligible individual with household costs of \$35 or more per month will increase from the current assistance standard of \$377 per month to \$414. The Medicaid

Eligibility Standard for an individual in a nursing home will increase from the current \$568.20 to \$624.60.

Each public assistance recipient whose state payment will increase will be notified of the change in his benefits by the Division of Public Assistance.

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