Incarcerated felons to get fund checks

A Superior Court judge earlier this month ruled that denying incarcerated felons a Permenanet Fund dividend was unconstitutional and thus invalid, according to the Alaska Department of Revenue.

The dividend law was amended in 1988 to deny dividends to anyone who was incarcerated during the fiscal year for a felony conviction, starting with the 1989 dividend. Judge Beverly Cutler of Palmer, however, ruled that the law violated the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

Revenue Commissioner Hugh Malone said the effect of paying the felons will mean that each Alaskan's dividend will be reduced by about \$3.