HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 152(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/7/96
Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to public employee compensation, benefits, and labor relations; relating to salaries, geographic and cost-of-living differentials for certain state employees, and to salary surveys and preparation of an annual pay schedule regarding certain state employees; relating to retirement and early retirement incentives for certain public employees; relating to severance and other pay and benefit programs for public employees; relating to and making conforming amendments concerning certain state aid calculations formerly based on geographic differentials for state employee salaries; relating to the exempt status of certain state employees; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The purpose of sec. 7 of this Act is to affirm the interpretation and practice of the state with regard to the use of criteria similar
to the criteria in the permanent fund dividend program for determining the establishment and maintenance of state residency for eligibility for the cost-of-living differential under AS 23.40.210. It is also the intent of the legislature to provide express statutory authority to the state to establish or clarify those standards through adoption of regulations by the Department of Administration and to set the eligibility criteria for the differential outside the collective bargaining context.

* Sec. 2. AS 22.05.140(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (d) of this section, the monthly base salary of the chief justice is $9,203 [$8,333] and for each other justice, the monthly base salary is $9,159 [$8,292].

* Sec. 3. AS 22.07.090(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the monthly base salary of a judge of the court of appeals is $8,652 [$7,833]. The compensation of a judge may not be diminished during the term of office, unless by a general law applying to all salaried officers of the state.

* Sec. 4. AS 22.10.190(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (d) of this section, the monthly base salary for each superior court judge is $8,469 [$7,667].

* Sec. 5. AS 22.15.220(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the monthly base salary for each district court judge is $7,179 [$6,500].

* Sec. 6. AS 22.15.220(b) is amended to read:

(b) Each magistrate shall receive annual compensation including geographic differential pay to be determined by the supreme court. Salary increases shall be determined on the basis of percentage of pay increase the legislature provides for state employees in the classified service. [THE BASE SALARY OF A MAGISTRATE SHALL BE INCREASED BY A PERCENTAGE EQUAL TO THREE AND ONE-HALF PER CENT TIMES THE NUMBER OF STEP INCREASES PROVIDED UNDER AS 39.27.020 THAT A STATE EMPLOYEE WOULD RECEIVE WORKING IN THE SAME ELECTION DISTRICT.] A magistrate’s annual compensation may be payable, at the option of the magistrate, either monthly in 12
equal installments or semi-monthly in 24 equal installments.

* Sec. 7. AS 23.40.210 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(b) An employee is eligible for the cost-of-living differential under (a) of this section only if the individual is a state resident. The required presence of an employee at a work station where room and board are provided or reimbursed by the employer may not be considered to be physical presence in the state or physical absence from the state for purposes of determining eligibility for the cost-of-living differential.

(c) The commissioner of administration may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to clarify and implement the criteria for establishing and maintaining eligibility for the cost-of-living differential.

(d) An agreement entered into under AS 23.40.070 - 23.40.260 must require compliance with the eligibility criteria for receiving the cost-of-living differential contained in this section and the regulations adopted by the commissioner under (c) of this section.

(e) In this section, “state resident” means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain permanently in the state under the requirements of AS 01.10.055 or, if the individual is not physically present in the state, intends to return to the state and remain permanently in the state under the requirements of AS 01.10.055, and is absent only temporarily for reasons allowed under AS 43.23.095(8) or a successor statute.

* Sec. 8. AS 24.10.100 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.10.100. SALARY OF LEGISLATORS. The monthly salary for each member of the legislature is $2,001 [EQUAL TO STEP A, RANGE 10 OF THE SALARY SCHEDULE IN AS 39.27.011(a) FOR JUNEAU]. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives are each entitled to an additional $500 a year during tenure of office.

* Sec. 9. AS 29.60.160(a) is amended to read:

(a) Payments to a municipality or other eligible recipient under AS 29.60.110 - 29.60.130 shall reflect area cost-of-living differentials. Payments shall be based on the sum of per capita, per mile, and per bed or facility grants due each municipality or other recipient multiplied by the appropriate area cost-of-living differential. The
area cost-of-living differential for each recipient shall be determined [ANNUALLY BY
ELECTION DISTRICT] under the provisions of AS 29.60.164 and 29.60.165
[AS 39.27.030]. Application of the area cost-of-living differential may not result in
distribution of an amount less than the amount of the payment determined without
reference to application of this section.

* Sec. 10. AS 29.60 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 29.60.164. AREA COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIALS. (a) The area
cost-of-living differential multiplier shall be determined by multiplying the cost-of-
living steps found in the table in this subsection by three and one-half percent. The
following area cost-of-living steps apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election District</th>
<th>Cost of Living</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a (excluding Valdez Duty Station)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b (Valdez Duty Station)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15a (excluding Nenana Duty Station)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15b (Nenana Duty Station)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16a (south of Arctic Circle)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16b (north of Arctic Circle)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In other states minus 6.

(b) For purposes of (a) of this section, “election district” means an election district designated in the governor's proclamation of reapportionment and redistricting of December 7, 1961.

Sec. 29.60.165. COST-OF-LIVING SURVEY. Subject to an appropriation for this purpose, the director shall conduct a survey, at least every five years, to review the differentials established in AS 29.60.164. This survey must address factors, as determined by the director, that are also relevant in review of state salary schedules, entitlement for beneficiaries of state programs, and payments for state service providers. The survey must reflect the costs of living in various election districts of the state, and Seattle, Washington, by using the cost of living in Anchorage as the base.

* Sec. 11. AS 29.60.290(b) is amended to read:

(b) The area cost-of-living differential payable to each municipality under this section shall be determined [ANNUALLY BY ELECTION DISTRICT] under the provisions of AS 29.60.164 and 29.60.165 [AS 39.27.030]. Except as provided in AS 29.60.300, application of the area cost-of-living differential may not result in a payment that is less than the minimum payment determined under (a) of this section. [FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE ELECTION DISTRICTS USED ARE THOSE DESIGNATED BY THE PROCLAMATION OF REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING OF DECEMBER 7, 1961, AND RETAINED FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER 3, 1965.]

* Sec. 12. AS 39.20.250(a) is amended to read:

(a) Terminal leave for unused personal leave shall be allowed upon separation from service. The payment equals the personal leave balance at the time of separation from service multiplied by the officer’s or employee’s annualized hourly rate of pay [THE COMPENSATION THAT THE OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED IF THE OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE HAD REMAINED...
IN THE SERVICE UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD OF UNUSED PERSONAL LEAVE]. A payment of terminal leave to an employee shall be made as a lump sum payment [OR IN INSTALLMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, AS THE EMPLOYEE ELECTS].

* Sec. 13. AS 39.27.011 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(e) Effective July 1, 1996, the amounts set out in the salary schedule contained in (a) of this section are increased by the lesser of

(1) 1.5 percent; or

(2) one-half of the percentage increase in the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer price index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, from the second half of 1994 to the second half of 1995.

(f) Effective July 1, 1997, the amounts set out in the salary schedule contained in (a) of this section, as increased under (e) of this section, are increased by the lesser of

(1) 1.5 percent; or

(2) one-half of the percentage increase in the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer price index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, from the second half of 1995 to the second half of 1996.

(g) Effective July 1, 1998, the amounts set out in the salary schedule contained in (a) of this section, as increased under (e) and (f) of this section, are increased by the lesser of

(1) 1.5 percent; or

(2) one-half of the percentage increase in the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer price index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, from the second half of 1996 to the second half of 1997.

* Sec. 14. AS 39.27.020 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 39.27.020. PAY DIFFERENTIALS. (a) The following pay differentials are approved as an amendment to the basic salary schedule in AS 39.27.011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Percentage Above or Below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Election Districts)</td>
<td>Basic Salary Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 4, and 7 - 28</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) A pay differential authorized by (a) of this section applies only to that part of an employee’s gross salary that does not exceed $25,000 annually, prorated by pay period.

(c) For purposes of determining the differential provided under (a) of this section, an appointing authority may increase the salary on which the geographic pay differential is computed by up to 20 percent of the employee's base salary set out in AS 39.27.011 if

1. the duty station for the position or job class is located in election districts 37, 38, 39, or 40;
2. the position or job class requires the employee to hold a license to practice law under AS 08.08 or to practice medicine under AS 08.64; and
3. the director certifies that recruitment or retention for the position or job class in that election district is so difficult that the increase is essential to recruitment or retention of employees in the position.

(d) The director may establish pay differentials for positions in foreign countries or in states other than the State of Washington. If the director establishes a pay differential under this subsection, the director shall adjust the differential as necessary to maintain equitable relationships between salaries for positions outside the state and in the state.

(e) For purposes of (a) of this section, "election district" means an election district designated in the governor's proclamation of reapportionment and redistricting applicable to the 1994 general election.

* Sec. 15. AS 39.27.030 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 39.27.030. COST-OF-LIVING SURVEY. Subject to an appropriation for this purpose, the director shall conduct a survey, at least every five years, to review the pay differentials established in AS 39.27.020. The survey may address factors, as
determined by the director, that are also relevant in review of state salary schedules, entitlement for beneficiaries of state programs, and payments for state service providers. The survey must reflect the costs of living in various election districts of the state, and Seattle, Washington, by using the cost of living in Anchorage as a base.

* Sec. 16. AS 39.27.045 is amended to read:

Sec. 39.27.045. DEFINITION. In AS 39.27.020 - 39.27.030 [AS 39.27.030 - 39.27.040], "director" means the director of the division of personnel.

* Sec. 17. AS 39.35.160(a) is amended to read:

(a) A [BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1987, EACH] peace officer or fire fighter who is first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section shall contribute to the system an amount equal to seven percent of the peace officer’s or fire fighter’s compensation. A peace officer or fire fighter first hired before the effective date of this bill section shall contribute to the system an amount equal to seven and one-half percent of the peace officer’s or fire fighter’s compensation. Each [BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1987, EACH] other employee who is first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section shall contribute to the system an amount equal to six percent of the employee’s compensation. Each other employee who is first hired before the effective date of this bill section shall contribute to the system an amount equal to six and three-quarters percent of the employee’s compensation. The contributions shall be deducted by the employer at the end of each payroll period. The contributions shall be deducted from employee compensation before computation of applicable federal taxes, and the contributions shall be treated as employer contributions under 26 U.S.C. 414(h)(2).

* Sec. 18. AS 39.35.370(a) is amended to read:

(a) Subject to AS 39.35.450, a terminated employee is eligible for a normal retirement benefit

(1) at age 60 with at least five years credited service;

(2) with at least 20 years of credited service as a peace officer or fire fighter for peace officers or fire fighters first hired before the effective date of this bill section; [OR]

(3) at age 50 with at least 20 years of credited service as a peace
officer or fire fighter, for peace officers and fire fighters first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section:

(4) with at least 30 years of credited service for all other employees if the employee was first hired before the effective date of this bill section; or

(5) at any time when the employee’s age and amount of credited service equal or exceed 85 when added together, for all other employees first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section.

* Sec. 19. AS 39.35.370(b) is amended to read:

(b) Subject to AS 39.35.450, a terminated employee is eligible for an early retirement benefit at age 55 with at least five years credited service. An actuarial adjustment shall be made to retirement benefits paid under this section for an early retirement benefit. The monthly amount of a retirement benefit that would be due under (c) of this section shall be reduced by multiplying one-half of one percent times the number of months, to the nearest month, by which the retirement date of the employee falls short of the date that the employee reaches age 60.

* Sec. 20. AS 39.35.370(c) is amended to read:

(c) The monthly amount of a retirement benefit for

(1) a peace officer or fire fighter is two percent of the average monthly compensation times the years of credited service through 10 years, plus two and one-half percent of the average monthly compensation times the years of service over 10 years;

(2) [FOR] all other employees first hired before the effective date of this bill section, [IT] is

(A) [(1)] two percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service before July 1, 1986, and for years of service through a total of 10 years; plus

(B) [(2)] two and one-quarter percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service after June 30, 1986, over 10 years of total service through 20 years; plus

(C) [(3)] two and one-half percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service after June 30, 1986, over 20 years of
total service; 

(3) all other employees first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section, is 

(A) one and one-half percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service through a total of 10 years; plus 

(B) one and three-quarters percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service over 10 years of total service through 20 years; plus 

(C) two percent of the average monthly compensation times all years of service over 20 years.

* Sec. 21. AS 39.35.450(a) is amended to read:

(a) Benefits payable under this section are in place of benefits payable under AS 39.35.370, 39.35.385, and former AS 39.35.460 [39.35.460]. Upon filing an application with the administrator or when a disabled employee first attains eligibility for normal retirement under AS 39.35.400(f) or 39.35.410(h), the employee shall designate the person who is the employee’s spouse at the time of appointment to retirement as the contingent beneficiary. However, if the designation of the spouse is revoked under (c) of this section, the employee may designate a dependent approved by the administrator as the contingent beneficiary or may take normal or early retirement under AS 39.35.370 or 39.35.385 [OR A LEVEL INCOME OPTION UNDER AS 39.35.460]. The administrator shall pay benefits under the option elected by the employee. The employee may elect an option that provides that 

(1) the employee is entitled to receive a reduced benefit payable for life, and, after the employee’s death, the contingent beneficiary is entitled to payments in the amount of 75 percent of the reduced benefit payable for life; 

(2) the employee is entitled to receive a reduced benefit payable for life, and, after the employee’s death, the contingent beneficiary is entitled to receive payments in the amount of 50 percent of the reduced benefit payable for life [; 

(3) THE EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A REDUCED BENEFIT PAYABLE DURING THE JOINT LIFETIME OF THE EMPLOYEE AND THE CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY, AND, AFTER THE DEATH OF EITHER THE
EMPLOYEE OR THE CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY, THE SURVIVOR IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF 66 2/3 PERCENT OF THE REDUCED BENEFIT PAYABLE FOR LIFE].

* Sec. 22. AS 39.35.475(a) is amended to read:

(a) Once each year the administrator shall increase benefit payments to

(1) eligible disabled members;

(2) persons age 60 or older receiving benefits under this system in the preceding calendar year;

(3) members who were first hired before the effective date of this bill section [AND TO PERSONS] who have received benefits under this system for at least five years and who are not otherwise eligible for an increase under this section; and

(4) survivors of members described in (3) of this subsection when the member and the survivor have together received benefits under this system for at least five years.

* Sec. 23. AS 39.35.475(b) is amended to read:

(b) The increase in benefit payments applies to total benefit payments except for the cost-of-living allowance under AS 39.35.480. For members first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section, the amount of the increase is a percentage of the current benefit equal to the lesser of 50 percent of the increase in the cost of living in the preceding calendar year or six percent. For members first hired before the effective date of this bill section, the [THE] amount of the increase is a percentage of the current benefit equal to

(1) the lesser of 75 percent of the increase in the cost of living in the preceding calendar year or nine percent, for recipients who on July 1 are at least 65 years old and for members receiving disability benefits; and

(2) the lesser of 50 percent of the increase in the cost of living in the preceding calendar year or six percent, for recipients who on July 1 are at least 60 but less than 65 years old or for recipients who are less than 60 years old on July 1 but who have received benefits from the system for at least five years.

* Sec. 24. AS 39.35.485(a) is amended to read:
(a) An employee who is eligible for a benefit calculated in accordance with
AS 39.35.370(c) is entitled to a benefit of at least $25 a month for each year of
credited service, not including adjustments made under AS 39.35.340 for military
service, AS 39.35.350 for reinstatement of credited service, AS 39.35.360 for credit
for earlier service, AS 39.35.370(c) for early retirement, AS 39.35.420 for
nonoccupational death benefits, AS 39.35.450 for the survivor’s option, former
AS 39.35.460 for the level income option, AS 39.35.475 for the post-retirement
pension adjustment, and AS 39.35.480 for the cost of living.

* Sec. 25. AS 39.35.535(c) is amended to read:

(c) A benefit recipient may elect major medical insurance coverage in
accordance with regulations and under the following conditions:

(1) a person who is younger than 60 years of age must pay an amount
equal to the full monthly group premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage
and the full monthly group premium for any dependent coverage elected;

(2) a person who is at least 60 years of age but is younger than 65
years of age must pay an amount equal to one-half of the full monthly group premium
for retiree major medical insurance coverage and any dependent coverage elected;

(3) a disabled member or a person 65 years of age or older and who
is receiving a benefit based on membership which began before the effective date
of this bill section is not required to make premium payments for retiree major
medical insurance coverage or any dependent coverage;

(4) a disabled member or person 65 years of age or older and who
is receiving a benefit based on membership that began on or after the effective
date of this bill section is not required to make premium payments for retiree
major medical insurance coverage; however, for any dependent coverage elected,
the person is required to pay an amount equal to one-half of the monthly group
premium.

* Sec. 26. AS 39.35.680(4) is amended to read:

(4) "average monthly compensation" means the result obtained by
dividing the compensation earned by an employee during a considered period by the
number of months, including fractional months, for which compensation was earned;
the considered period consists of (A) **for employees first hired before the effective date of this bill section**, the three consecutive payroll years during the period of credited service that yields the highest average, and (B) **for employees first hired on or after the effective date of this bill section**, the five consecutive payroll years during the period of credited service that yield the highest average, or if the employee does not have the required number of [THREE] consecutive payroll years, the employee’s period of credited service; an employee must have at least 115 days of credited service in the last payroll year in order for that year to be used as part of the [THREE] consecutive payroll years;

* Sec. 27. AS 44.31.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 44.31.020. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. The Department of Labor shall

(1) enforce the laws, and adopt regulations under them concerning employer-employee relationships, including the safety, hours of work, wages, and conditions of workers, including children;

(2) accumulate, analyze, and report labor statistics;

(3) operate systems of workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance; and

(4) gather data reflecting the cost of living in the various election districts of the state upon request of the director of personnel **for determination of area cost-of-living differentials under AS 29.60.164 and 29.60.165 or under** AS 39.27.030 [AS 39.27.030 - 39.27.040].

* Sec. 28. AS 39.27.035, 39.27.040; and AS 39.35.460 are repealed.

* Sec. 29. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE AS TO SECS. 30 - 43. The State of Alaska and many local governments are facing the need to restructure their operations and their work forces in order to reduce expenditures and to balance budgets. Retirement and separation incentives are management tools that have been used extensively by the private sector, the federal government, and other state and local governments across the country. The purpose of secs. 30 - 43 of this Act is to make these management tools temporarily available to the state and to the municipalities of the state. Sections 30 - 43 of this Act will enable these entities to be more efficient and cost-effective by eliminating certain nonessential positions and producing a net reduction in personnel costs.
* Sec. 30. RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM. (a) An employer may adopt a
retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act, as appropriate, and designate
categories of employees eligible to participate in that plan. An employer need not extend the
incentive plan to all employees who would otherwise be eligible, but may choose to extend
the plan only to employees

(1) in specific budget or administrative components of the employer;
(2) in specific job classifications;
(3) in specific geographic locations; or
(4) on the basis of any combination of factors under (1) - (3) of this
subsection.

(b) An employee is eligible to participate in a retirement incentive plan under secs.
30 - 43 of this Act only if the

(1) employee is a vested member of the public employees' retirement system
or the teachers' retirement system;
(2) employee will be qualified to retire under AS 14.25.110 or AS 39.35.370
after receipt of the credit described in (f) of this section;
(3) savings to the employer in personal services costs for the employee's
position will exceed the costs to the employer for that position within three years after the
employee is appointed to retirement.

(c) An employer shall file its proposed retirement incentive plan with the
commissioner of administration. Except as provided in sec. 37 of this Act, the commissioner
shall approve the plan if the plan meets the requirements of secs. 30 - 43 of this Act, except
that the commissioner may approve a state agency's retirement incentive plan only if the office
of management and budget approves the calculation of savings under (b)(3) of this section.
A proposed plan filed under this section must

(1) identify job classifications of employees, and specific budget or
administrative components, eligible to participate in the plan;
(2) include a reimbursement agreement that
(A) requires the employer, for each employee who retires under the
plan, to reimburse the appropriate retirement system, within three years after the end
of the fiscal year in which the employee is appointed to retirement, in an amount equal
to

(i) the actuarial equivalent of the difference between the benefits
the participant receives after the addition of the credit under (f) of this section
and the amount the participant would have received without the credit, less the
amount the participant has paid on the indebtedness determined under (d) or (e)
of this section; and

(ii) an appropriate share of the administrative costs of the
program; and

(B) provides that contributions from the employer under this section
take priority over other obligations of the employer to the maximum extent permitted
by law.

(d) A member of the teachers' retirement system who participates in an approved
retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act is indebted to that system for an
amount calculated under this subsection. The indebtedness is 25.95 percent of the member's
actual compensation for the school year in which the member terminates employment, or the
calculated school year compensation for a member who works less than the entire school year.
An outstanding indebtedness at the time a member is appointed to retirement under an
approved retirement incentive plan requires an actuarial adjustment to the benefits payable to
that member.

(e) A member of the public employees' retirement system who participates in an
approved retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act is indebted to that system
for an amount calculated under this subsection. The indebtedness is 22 1/2 percent for a
peace officer or fire fighter, and 20 1/4 percent for other members, of the member's actual
annual compensation for the year in which the member terminates employment, or the
calculated annual compensation for a member who works fewer than 12 months. An
outstanding indebtedness at the time a member is appointed to retirement under an approved
retirement incentive plan requires an actuarial adjustment to the benefits payable to that
member.

(f) An employee who participates in an approved retirement incentive plan under secs.
30 - 43 of this Act receives a credit of three years. The three years must be applied in the
following order until exhausted:
(1) to meet the age or service required for eligibility for normal retirement under AS 14.25.110 or AS 39.35.370, as appropriate;

(2) to meet the age required for early retirement under AS 14.25.110 or AS 39.35.370, as appropriate;

(3) to reduce the actuarial adjustment required for early retirement under AS 14.25.110 or AS 39.35.370, as appropriate;

(4) as years of credited service for calculating retirement benefits.

(g) In this section,

(1) "department" means

   (A) a principal department of the executive branch of state government;
   an independent state entity that is attached to a principal department of the executive branch for administrative purposes but that is not a public organization as defined in AS 39.35.680 is part of that department for purposes of this paragraph; and
   (B) the Office of the Governor;

(2) "employer"

   (A) for purposes of a retirement incentive plan under AS 14.25, means the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, the Department of Education, or the Regional Resource Center, but does not include a school district; and
   (B) for purposes of a retirement incentive plan under AS 39.35, has the meaning given in AS 39.35.680 and includes a department but does not include a school district.

* Sec. 31. AUTHORIZATION FOR STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE.

(a) A state agency may adopt, and file with the commissioner of administration for approval, a proposed retirement incentive plan for its employees as part of a permanent reduction in the personal services costs in that section of the state agency.

(b) Upon the request of a state agency, the commissioner of administration shall establish one or more periods during which the employees of that state agency who are eligible under sec. 30(b) of this Act to participate in a retirement incentive plan may apply to the commissioner of administration to participate in the state agency's approved plan. The periods shall begin no earlier than June 30, 1996, and end no later than June 30, 1999. The periods shall be no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days in duration, and may not
begin less than 30 days after their establishment. A state agency is not required to request an application period and may request more than one application period.

(c) A proposed retirement incentive plan adopted under this section may not permit an employee who is the governor, the lieutenant governor, or a commissioner, deputy commissioner, or assistant commissioner of a principal department of the executive branch to participate in the plan.

(d) A proposed retirement incentive plan adopted under this section may permit participation only by an employee who is eligible to participate under sec. 30(b) of this Act and who

(1) has been continuously employed by the state for at least one year before the employee applies to participate in the state agency's approved plan;

(2) is a permanent seasonal employee who has been continuously employed by the state in a permanent seasonal position during all of the time in the one year before the employee's application to participate in which the position normally is filled;

(3) has a job sharing agreement with a state agency in which two or more employees share a single position identified by a single position control number and in which the employee who applies to participate in the plan was continuously employed by the agency during the portion of the one year before the employee's application in which the employee normally worked under the job sharing agreement; or

(4) meets a combination of the requirements of this subsection.

(e) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an employee to participate in an approved retirement incentive plan adopted under this section unless the employee will be appointed to retirement not later than the first day of the month that is six months after the last day of the application period established by the commissioner under (b) of this section. A state agency, in a plan adopted under this section, may set an earlier date by which an employee must be appointed to retirement in order to participate in the plan.

* Sec. 32. AUTHORIZATION FOR RETIREMENT INCENTIVE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA. (a) The Board of Regents of the University of Alaska may adopt, and file with the commissioner of administration for approval, a proposed retirement incentive plan for university employees.

(b) Upon the request of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of administration
shall establish one or more periods during which the employees of the university who are eligible under sec. 30(b) of this Act to participate in a retirement incentive plan may apply to the commissioner of administration to participate in the university's approved plan. The periods shall begin no earlier than June 30, 1996, and end no later than June 30, 1999. The periods shall be no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days in duration and may not begin less than 30 days after their establishment. The Board of Regents is not required to request an application period and may request more than one application period.

(c) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an employee to participate in an approved retirement incentive plan adopted under this section unless the employee will be appointed to retirement not later than the first day of the month that is six months after the last day of the application period established by the commissioner under (b) of this section. The Board of Regents, in a plan adopted under this section, may set an earlier date by which an employee of the University of Alaska must be appointed to retirement in order to participate in the plan.

(d) A participant in the optional university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 - 14.40.799 who is vested in the public employees' retirement system or the teachers' retirement system may participate in a retirement incentive plan for that system if the participant meets the other qualifications of secs. 30 - 43 of this Act. If a provision of this subsection is inconsistent with another provision of law, the provision of this subsection governs.

* Sec. 33. AUTHORIZATION FOR RETIREMENT INCENTIVE FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. (a) The governing body of a political subdivision of the state or public organization that has elected to participate in the public employees' retirement system under AS 39.35.550 - 39.35.650 may adopt, and file with the commissioner of administration for approval, a proposed retirement incentive plan for its employees. A plan adopted under this section must provide that the application period for participation in the retirement incentive plan is December 31, 1996, through June 30, 1997.

(b) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an employee to participate in an approved retirement incentive plan adopted under this section unless the employee will be appointed to retirement on or before February 1, 1998. The governing body of the political subdivision or public organization, in a plan adopted under this section, may
set an earlier date by which an employee must be appointed to retirement in order to
participate in the plan.

* Sec. 34. AUTHORIZATION FOR RETIREMENT INCENTIVE FOR EMPLOYEES OF
REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. (a)
A regional resource center that has employees who are members of the teachers' retirement
system may adopt, and file with the commissioner of administration for approval, a proposed
retirement incentive plan for its employees. A plan adopted under this section must provide
that the application period for participation in the retirement incentive plan is June 30, 1996,
through December 31, 1996.

(b) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an employee
to participate in an approved retirement incentive plan adopted under this section unless the
employee will be appointed to retirement on or before August 1, 1997. The regional resource
center, in a plan adopted under this section, may set an earlier date by which an employee
must be appointed to retirement in order to participate in the plan.

* Sec. 35. POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR PUBLIC ORGANIZATION EMPLOYMENT.
For purposes of determining the years of service requirements for retirement under
AS 14.25.110 or AS 39.35.370, as appropriate, a vested member who is a state employee and
who applies to participate in a retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act may
receive credit for employment with a political subdivision or public organization before the
political subdivision or organization became an employer under the public employees'
retirement system. The member may not receive credit for those years under this section for
purposes of determining benefits. If a provision of this section is inconsistent with any other
provision of law, the provision of this section governs.

* Sec. 36. PROVISION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF COURT. (a) The chief justice of the state supreme court may adopt a retirement
incentive plan for an administrative director of the Alaska Court System who is a member of
the judicial retirement system under AS 22.25.012 if participation in the plan will result in
savings to the court system in personal services costs within three years after commencement
of the plan. The administrative director may participate only if the administrative director is
vested in the judicial retirement system and will be qualified to retire under AS 22.25.010
after receipt of the retirement incentive. To participate, the administrative director shall apply
(b) The court system shall include in the retirement incentive plan a reimbursement agreement that requires the court system, for each administrative director of the Alaska Court System who is retired under the plan, to reimburse the judicial retirement system within three years after the end of the fiscal year in which the administrative director is appointed to retirement in an amount equal to

1. the actuarial equivalent of the difference between the benefits the administrative director receives after the addition of the credit under (e) of this section and the amount the participant would have received without the credit, less the total of the amount the participant has paid on the indebtedness determined under (d) of this section; and

2. an appropriate share of the administrative costs of the program.

(c) A retirement incentive plan adopted under this section must provide that contributions from the court system under (b) of this section take priority over other obligations of the court system under (b) of this section to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(d) An administrative director of the Alaska Court System who participates in an approved retirement incentive plan is indebted to the system. The amount of indebtedness is equal to 21 percent of the director's actual annual compensation for the year in which the director terminates employment to participate in the program, or the calculated annual compensation for an administrative director who works fewer than 12 months. An outstanding indebtedness at the time the administrative director is appointed to retirement under an approved retirement incentive plan will require an actuarial adjustment to the benefits payable to the director.

(e) An administrative director of the Alaska Court System who participates in an approved retirement incentive plan receives a credit of three years that may only be used to meet the age requirements for normal or early retirement under AS 22.25.010(d).

(f) The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court may adopt and file with the commissioner of administration for approval, a proposed retirement incentive plan for the administrative director of the court system who is a member of the judicial retirement system. Upon the request of the chief justice, the commissioner of administration shall establish a period during which an administrative director eligible to participate in the retirement incentive
plan of the court system may apply to the commissioner of administration to participate in the
court system's approved plan. The period shall begin no earlier than July 1, 1996, and end
no later than June 30, 1999. The period shall be no less than 30 days and no more than 60
days in duration and may not begin less than 30 days after establishment. The chief justice
is not required to request an application period.

(g) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an
administrative director of the court system to participate in an approved retirement incentive
plan adopted under this section unless the administrative director will be appointed to
retirement not later than the first day of the month that is six months after the last day of the
application period established by the commissioner under (f) of this section. The chief justice,
in a plan adopted under this section, may set an earlier date by which an administrative
director must be appointed to retirement in order to participate in the plan.

* Sec. 37. RECOVERY OF EMPLOYER DELINQUENCY. To recover a delinquency
owed by an employer other than the state under an agreement entered into under sec. 30(c)(2)
of this Act, the Department of Administration may

  (1) direct that the amount of the delinquency or a lesser amount be withheld
from any money payable to the employer by a state department or agency and that the amount
withheld be credited to the delinquency; and

  (2) bring action against the employer.

* Sec. 38. REEMPLOYMENT INDEBTEDNESS; PROHIBITION ON REEMPLOYMENT.
(a) If an individual is reemployed as a member of the public employees' retirement system
under AS 39.35, the teachers' retirement system under AS 14.25, the judicial retirement system
under AS 22.25, or the optional university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 - 14.40.799
after appointment to retirement under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act, that individual forfeits the
incentive credit received under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act and is indebted to the system under
which the individual took retirement. The indebtedness is 150 percent of the amount the
individual received as a result of participation in a retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 -
43 of this Act and to which the individual would not otherwise have been entitled, including
the cost of health insurance. The amount that the individual has paid under sec. 30(d) or (e)
of this Act will be applied as a credit toward the reemployment indebtedness. Interest on the
reemployment indebtedness accrues from the date of reemployment until the date that the
individual either is appointed to retirement and accepts an actuarial adjustment to the individual's future benefits or repays the indebtedness in full. The rate of interest is that established by regulation for the public employees' retirement system by the public employees' retirement board and for the teachers' retirement system by the teachers' retirement board.

(b) An individual who was appointed to retirement under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act may not be employed by, or enter into a contract for personal services with, a state agency or the University of Alaska within the five years after the date of appointment to retirement, except that

(1) the University of Alaska may enter into a personal services contract with the individual for teaching or research that does not entitle the individual to receive retirement, health, or leave benefits, except social security replacement if required by the Internal Revenue Code; and

(2) the individual may accept employment with the legislature during a legislative session if the employment is on an hourly basis and does not entitle the individual to receive retirement, health, or leave benefits.

(c) Notwithstanding the prohibition in (b) of this section, a state agency or the University of Alaska may enter into a personal services contract with an individual who was appointed to retirement under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act if the Board of Regents, for the University of Alaska, or the commissioner of administration, for a state agency, determines that there is a compelling reason to do so because of the individual's specialized or extensive experience that relates to a particular program or project of the state agency or university. However, a state agency may not enter into a contract with an individual under this subsection if the individual was employed by the state agency at the time of the individual's appointment to retirement.

* Sec. 39. LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN. (a) The Legislative Council may adopt and file with the commissioner of administration a retirement incentive plan for employees of the legislative branch of state government. The plan must designate categories of employees eligible to participate in that plan, include a reimbursement agreement for the cost of participation by employees in the plan, and require employees to meet the eligibility criteria and pay the indebtedness amount under sec. 30 of this Act. The Legislative Council may exercise the powers of an employer under sec. 30 of this Act, but a
plan adopted by the council is not subject to review by the office of management and budget
or approval of the commissioner of administration.

(b) The application periods established by the Legislative Council under the plan
during which the employees of a legislative agency who meet the requirements of sec. 30(b)
of this Act are eligible to participate in the retirement incentive plan shall begin no earlier
than June 30, 1996, and end no later than June 30, 1999. The application periods shall be no
less than 30 days and not more than 60 days in duration, and may not begin less than 30 days
after their establishment. The Legislative Council is not required to establish an application
period and may establish more than one application period.

(c) The commissioner of administration may not accept the application of an employee
to participate in the Legislative Council retirement incentive plan under this section unless the
employee will be appointed to retirement not later than the first day of the month that is six
months after the last day of the application period established by the Legislative Council under
this section. The Legislative Council may set an earlier date by which an employee must be
appointed to retirement in order to participate in the plan.

(d) The provisions of secs. 35, 37, 38, 41, and 43 of this Act apply to a plan adopted
under this section.

* Sec. 40. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (a) When designating an
employee category for participation in a retirement incentive plan under secs. 30 - 32 of this
Act, the executive head of the relevant state agency shall describe in detail the expected effect
of the plan or program on the agency's personal services cost and operation. This financial
report must be approved by the director of the office of management and budget before the
commissioner of administration may approve the proposed plan or program. The state agency
shall report each year to the office of management and budget on the cost of each employee's
participation and the effect on the agency's personal services cost and operation.

(b) The office of management and budget shall submit to the legislature annual reports
on the retirement incentive and separation incentive programs under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act
beginning January 15, 1998, and continuing through January 15, 2000, and shall submit a final
report January 15, 2001. Each report must provide the information necessary for the
legislature to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs in achieving their objectives. The
report must include information on the designated employee categories under the incentive
programs, the cost to the state, the cost to the employee, the annual budgeted amount, by state
agency, for the incentives, the number of positions deleted or left vacant, and the projected
or actual net savings over the three-year period, and recommendations to the legislature for
changes in appropriations that reflect the cost and cost savings resulting from the retirement
and separation incentive programs.

* Sec. 41. PROGRAM CHANGES. (a) An individual employee does not have a vested
or contractual right to a benefit under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act until an agreement is executed
with the administrator that specifically authorizes that employee to participate in the retirement
incentive program under secs. 30 - 43 of this Act or until an agreement is executed with the
commissioner of administration to participate in the separation incentive program under secs.
30 - 43 of this Act. The legislature reserves the right to change any aspect of either incentive
program as it relates to employees for whom participation agreements have not yet been
executed with the administrator or with the commissioner of administration.

(b) In this section, "administrator" means the administrator of the public employees'
retirement system of employees who are members of that system, and the administrator of the
teachers’ retirement system for employees who are members of that system.

* Sec. 42. REGULATIONS. The commissioner of administration may adopt regulations
under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement and interpret secs. 30 - 38 and
40 - 43 of this Act.

* Sec. 43. DEFINITIONS. (a) Unless otherwise provided in secs. 30 - 43 of this Act, the
definitions set out in AS 14.25.220 apply to provisions in secs. 31 - 39 of this Act that relate
to teachers' retirement system and members of the teachers' retirement system.

(b) Unless otherwise provided in secs. 30 - 43 of this Act, the definitions set out in
AS 39.35.680 apply to provisions in secs. 31 - 39 of this Act that relate to the public
employees' retirement system and members of the public employees' retirement system except
that "employer" does not include a school district.

(c) In secs. 30 - 43 of this Act,

(1) "office of management and budget" means the office of management and
budget in the Office of the Governor;

(2) "public employees’ retirement system" means the Public Employees'
Retirement System of Alaska (AS 39.35);
(3) "state agency"

(A) means

(i) the judicial branch of state government;

(ii) a principal department of the executive branch of state
government; and independent state entity that is attached to a principal
department of the executive branch for administrative purposes but that is not
a public organization as defined in AS 39.35.680 is part of that department for
purposes of this clause; and

(iii) the Office of the Governor;

(B) does not include

(i) the University of Alaska;

(ii) a political subdivision of the state; or

(iii) a public organization as defined in AS 39.35.680;

(4) "teachers' retirement system" means the Teachers' Retirement System of
Alaska (AS 14.25).

* Sec. 44. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CERTAIN EXEMPT EMPLOYEES OF THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Permanent and temporary employees of the executive branch who
are in the exempt service under AS 39.25, who are not members of a collective bargaining
unit established under the Public Employment Relations Act (AS 23.40), and who are not
otherwise covered by AS 39.27.011(a), are entitled to receive salary adjustments comparable
to those received by the classified and partially exempt employees of the executive branch
under AS 39.27.011(e) - (g), as enacted by sec. 13 of this Act, and to receive geographic
differentials comparable to those received by the classified and partially exempt employees
of the executive branch under AS 39.25.020, as enacted by sec. 14 of this Act.

* Sec. 45. SALARY INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA. The employees of the University of Alaska who are not members of a collective
bargaining unit are entitled to receive salary increases in accordance with the compensation
policy of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska.

* Sec. 46. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.
For the fiscal years beginning July 1, 1997, and July 1, 1998, permanent and temporary
employees of the judicial branch, other than justices and judges, who are not members of a
collective bargaining agreement unit are entitled to receive salary adjustments comparable to those received by the classified and partially exempt employees of the executive branch under AS 39.27.011(f) - (g), as enacted by sec. 13 of this Act, and geographic differential adjustments comparable to those received by the classified and partially exempt employees of the executive branch under AS 39.27.020, as enacted by sec. 14 of this Act.

* Sec. 47. SALARY INCREASES FOR JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 1997, the temporary and permanent employees of the judicial branch, other than justices and judges, who are not members of a collective bargaining unit are entitled to receive a salary increase of 5.2 percent of the employee's base salary as of June 30, 1996.

* Sec. 48. JUDGES AND JUSTICES. Notwithstanding AS 22.05.140(d), AS 22.07.090(c), AS 22.10.190(d), and AS 22.15.220(e), and sec. 13 of this Act, justices and judges in the judicial branch are not entitled to receive the increases provided by AS 22.05.140(d), AS 22.07.090(c), AS 22.10.190(d), and AS 22.15.220(e) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 1997.

* Sec. 49. SALARY INCREASES FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES. Employees of the legislative branch of state government who are not otherwise subject to AS 39.27.011, other than legislators, are entitled to receive salary adjustments comparable to those received by the classified and partially exempt employees of the executive branch under AS 39.27.011(e) - (g), as enacted by sec. 13 of this Act.

* Sec. 50. APPROVAL OF MONETARY TERMS OF AGREEMENTS. (a) This section

(1) supersedes the provisions of any bill passed by the Second Session of the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature and enacted into law that disapproves the monetary terms of the collective bargaining agreements listed in this section; and

(2) satisfies the terms of any bill passed by the Second Session of the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature and enacted into law that imposes conditions on the approval of the monetary terms of those agreements.

(b) This section constitutes approval of the monetary terms of the collective bargaining agreements entered into between the state and the following collective bargaining organizations:

(1) Alaska State Employees Association, for the General Government Unit;
(2) Alaska Public Employees Association, for the Supervisory Unit;
(3) Public Employees Local 71, for the Labor, Trades and Crafts Unit;
(4) Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific, representing the unlicensed marine unit;
(5) International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots, Pacific Maritime Region, for the Masters, Mates, and Pilots Unit;
(6) Public Safety Employees Association, representing state troopers and other commissioned law enforcement personnel;
(7) the Classified Employees Association, representing University of Alaska employees;
(8) the Alaska Community Colleges’ Federation of Teachers, representing faculty members of the University of Alaska;
(9) the Alyeska Correspondence School Education Association representing teachers at the Alyeska Central School;
(10) Alaska Vocational Technical Center Teacher’s Association representing teachers at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center; and
(11) International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers representing nonjudicial, nonsupervisory, classified employees of the Alaska Court System.

* Sec. 51. DECLINING TO PLACE EMPLOYEES OF THE LABOR RELATIONS SECTION IN THE EXEMPT SERVICE. The legislature declines to place employees of the labor relations section of the Department of Administration in the exempt service because it finds that the public is better served by maintaining the current status of these employees.

* Sec. 52 LIMITATION ON THE REDUCTION OF EMPLOYEE SALARIES. (a) So long as the employee remains in the same geographic area, as set out in AS 39.27.020, as amended by sec. 14 of this Act,

(1) the salary that an employee is receiving on June 30, 1996, may not be reduced by application of a provision of sec. 14 of this Act until June 30, 1997;

(2) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, the salary that an employee is receiving on June 30, 1997, may not be reduced by more than five percent as a result of the application of a provision of this Act.

(b) If an employee moves to another geographic area after June 30, 1996, both the pay
differential in AS 39.27.020(a) and the limitation on applicable salary in AS 39.27.020(b), as
reenacted by sec. 14 of this Act, apply to that employee's salary on the effective date of the
move.

(c) Nothing in this Act prohibits a reduction in an employee's salary as a result of a
voluntary or involuntary demotion.

* Sec. 53  Nothing in this Act modifies or terminates the terms of a collective bargaining
agreement in effect on the effective date of this Act.

* Sec. 54.  Section 52 of this Act is repealed July 1, 1998.

* Sec. 55  Sections 30, 31, and 39 of this Act are repealed July 1, 2000.

* Sec. 56.  Sections 32 - 36 of this Act are repealed December 31, 1999.

* Sec. 57.  This Act takes effect July 1, 1996.