

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Mike Dunleavy
Senator

Sponsor Statement

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 79 (EDC) Reemployment of Retired Teachers and Administrators

Currently Alaska is experiencing a shortage of qualified educators, especially in hard to fill areas of the state. This situation is compounded by the drastic reduction in state revenue due to low oil prices. Senate Bill 79 expands the pool of experienced, qualified educators available to school districts.

This legislation will allow school districts to reemploy educators who are retired for one year if the educator is less than 62 years of age or three months if the individual is 62 years or older. *This bill will not require any school district to reemploy any particular retired individual. It will only give the district an option to do so.* Under SB 79, a school district may offer a contract to a retired educator for a part-time or full-time position at a lower cost to the district.

Educators reemployed under this provision continue to receive retirement benefits during the period of reemployment. Under the committee substitute, school districts are required to contribute 12.56 percent of the retired educator's salary to the Teachers Retirement System, the same rate submitted by districts for active employees.

Senate Bill 79 provides one more tool for local school districts struggling from a shortage of qualified educators and a decrease in funding. I hope that you will give it your support.