

4-18-19

Representative Bart LeBon
Alaska Representative District 1
State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Bart LeBon,

I have been in law enforcement for over 23 years. I am a tier II employee so House Bill 79 does not affect me directly. However, when I first applied to a police department in Alaska many years ago there was 1 opening and over 100 people taking the written test. I now run hiring at my current department and there are many times when we have up to 4 positions to fill and only 10-12 people taking the written test. Simply put, the picking are slim these days. Then when we do hire people, they fall into the current "retirement system" which is no more than a 401K. Because of this, I have witnessed firsthand time and time again all these new people we hire and spend a full year training (lots of money) just pick up and go to other departments (often out of the state) because there are better opportunities for an actual retirement in the lower 48. This is not uncommon but the norm in every police and fire department across the state. This is truly hurting our public safety departments and in turn our communities. We need to do better than this, we MUST do better! I fully support House Bill 79 and hope you do as well.

Sincerely,

Robert Harley
Constituent District 1
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