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State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4930

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Jeff Stepp

Sectional Analysis

SENATE BILL 259**VERSION A****COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES**

"An Act relating to the basic salary schedule for compensation of state employees; and providing for an effective date."

Section 1 repeals AS 39.27.011(m) and inserts new language to clarify that the salary schedule in AS 39.27.011(a) should increase at the same time and percentage as the salary schedule of the supervisory bargaining unit. This section specifies that the Commissioner of Administration is responsible for determining the exact percentage of the increase and the revised salary figures, establishing these adjustments through regulatory action instead of the legislative process. Notably, the statute specifies that the regulatory actions taken under this provision are exempt from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), which generally governs the rule-making process for state agencies. The intent of this exemption is to streamline the process, allowing for efficient adjustments to salary schedules of exempt and partially exempt employees. Finally, Section 1 also requires that these regulatory adjustments be published in the Alaska Administrative Register and Code, which ensures transparency and provides a public record of the adjustments made for informational purposes.

Section 2 adds a new section to make SB 259 retroactive to July 1, 2023, which would authorize a 1% cost of living allowance for exempt and partially exempt employees. Due to the Department of Law's interpretation of AS 39.27.011(m), exempt and partially exempt employees did not receive the same 1% cost-of-living allowance in FY24 as their colleagues in the supervisory bargaining unit. As a matter of fairness and consistent with the legislature's intent with the passage of HB 226 (2202), this section resolves that discrepancy.

Section 3 makes SB 259 effective immediately.