

HOUSE BILL NO. 66

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLETT, Josephson

Introduced: 1/21/15

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to providing medical insurance coverage under the Teachers'**
2 **Retirement System of Alaska and the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska;**
3 **and providing for an effective date."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.25.168(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the following persons are entitled
7 to major medical insurance coverage under this section:

8 (1) for teachers first hired before July 1, 1990,

9 (A) a teacher who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan
10 and who has elected coverage;

11 (B) the spouse and dependent children of the teacher described
12 in (A) of this paragraph;

13 (C) the surviving spouse of a deceased teacher who is receiving
14 a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage;

(D) the dependent children of a deceased teacher who are dependent on the surviving spouse described in (C) of this paragraph;

(2) for teachers first hired on or after July 1, 1990,

(A) a teacher who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage for the teacher;

(B) the spouse of the teacher described in (A) of this paragraph if the teacher elected coverage for the spouse;

(C) the dependent children of the teacher described in (A) of this paragraph if the teacher elected coverage for the dependent children;

(D) the surviving spouse of a deceased teacher who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage;

(E) the dependent children of a deceased teacher who are dependent on the surviving spouse described in (D) of this paragraph if the surviving spouse has elected coverage for the dependent children;

(3) for a deceased teacher, the surviving spouse and dependent children of the deceased teacher if the spouse or children are determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 14.25.157.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.25.168(d) is amended to read:

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

(1) a person who has less than 25 years of membership service and 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;

(2) a disabled member, a disabled member who is appointed to normal retirement, a person 60 years of age or older, **a person who receives major medical insurance coverage under (a)(3) of this section,** or a person who has at least 25 years of membership service is not required to make premium payments.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.25.470(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(c) The following persons are eligible to elect medical benefits under AS 14.25.480:

(1) a member who is eligible for retirement under (a) of this section;

(2) a member's surviving spouse if the member had retired or was eligible for retirement and medical benefits at the time of the member's death;

(3) a deceased member's surviving spouse, if the deceased member's surviving spouse has been determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 14.25.487; and

(4) a deceased member's dependent children if the deceased member's surviving spouse or dependent children have been determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 14.25.487.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.25.470(d) is amended to read:

(d) A person [MEMBER] shall apply for retirement and medical benefits on the forms and in the manner prescribed by the administrator.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.25.470(g) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(g) If an eligible person elects not to participate in the retiree major medical insurance plan, the election becomes irrevocable upon application for employment or when the person reaches 70 1/2 years of age, whichever is later.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.25.480(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(b) Retiree major medical insurance plan coverage elected by

(1) a member under AS 14.25.470(c)(1) covers the member, the member's spouse, and the member's dependent children;

(2) a surviving spouse under AS 14.25.470(c)(2) or (3) covers the surviving spouse and the member's children who are dependent on the surviving spouse;

(3) a dependent child under AS 14.25.470(c)(4) or a person authorized to act on behalf of the dependent child covers the dependent child.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.25.480(d) is amended to read:

(d) Major medical insurance coverage takes effect on the first day of the month following the date of the administrator's approval of the election and stops when the person who receives [ELECTS] coverage is no longer eligible to receive coverage [DIES] or fails to make a required premium payment.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 14.25.480 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(l) Notwithstanding (g) of this subsection, a person who is eligible for major

1 medical insurance coverage under AS 14.25.470(c)(3) or (4) is not required to make
2 premium payments.

3 * **Sec. 9.** AS 14.25.489 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 14.25.489. Premiums for retiree major medical insurance coverage**
5 **upon termination of disability benefits or survivor's pension.** The premium for
6 retiree major medical insurance coverage payable by a member whose disability
7 benefit is terminated under AS 14.25.485(g) or by an eligible survivor whose survivor
8 pension is terminated under AS 14.25.485(i) [OR 14.25.487(e)] when the member
9 would have been eligible for normal retirement if the member had survived shall be
10 determined under AS 14.25.480(g)(2) as if the member or survivor were eligible for
11 Medicare. A person who receives major medical coverage under
12 AS 14.25.470(c)(3) or (4) is not required to make premium payments for that
13 coverage.

14 * **Sec. 10.** AS 39.30.400(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) Upon application of an eligible person, the administrator shall reimburse to
16 the eligible person the costs for medical care expenses as defined in 26 U.S.C. 213(d).
17 Reimbursement is limited to the medical expenses of

18 (1) an eligible member, the spouse of an eligible member, and the
19 dependent children of an eligible member; [OR]

20 (2) a surviving spouse and the dependent children of an eligible
21 member dependent on the surviving spouse; or

22 (3) an eligible member's dependent children if the member dies
23 and there is no surviving spouse.

24 * **Sec. 11.** AS 39.35.535(a) is amended to read:

25 (a) Except as provided in (d) of this section, the following persons are entitled
26 to major medical insurance coverage under this section:

27 (1) for employees first hired before July 1, 1986,

28 (A) an employee who is receiving a monthly benefit from the
29 plan and who has elected coverage;

30 (B) the spouse and dependent children of the employee
31 described in (A) of this paragraph;

(C) the surviving spouse of a deceased employee who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage;

(D) the dependent children of a deceased employee who are dependent on the surviving spouse described in (C) of this paragraph;

(2) for members first hired on or after July 1, 1986,

(A) an employee who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage for the employee;

(B) the spouse of the employee described in (A) of this paragraph if the employee elected coverage for the spouse;

(C) the dependent children of the employee described in (A) of this paragraph if the employee elected coverage for the dependent children;

(D) the surviving spouse of a deceased employee who is receiving a monthly benefit from the plan and who has elected coverage;

(E) the dependent children of a deceased employee who are dependent on the surviving spouse described in (D) of this paragraph if the surviving spouse has elected coverage for the dependent children;

(3) for a deceased member, the surviving spouse and dependent children of the deceased member if the spouse or children are determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 39.35.430.

* **Sec. 12.** 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, other than a disabled member or a disabled member who is appointed to normal retirement, must pay an amount equal to the full monthly group premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage if the person is

(A) younger than 60 years of age and has less than

(i) 25 years of credited service as a peace officer under AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370; or

(ii) 30 years of credited service under AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370 that is not service as a peace officer; or

(B) of any age and has less than 10 years of credited service;

(2) a person is not required to make premium payments for retiree major medical coverage if the person

(A) is a disabled member;

(B) is a disabled member who is appointed to normal retirement;

(C) is 60 years of age or older and has at least 10 years of credited service; [OR]

(D) has at least

(i) 25 years of credited service as a peace officer under AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370; or

(ii) 30 years of credited service under AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370 not as a peace officer; or

(E) is receiving a benefit under (a)(3) of this section.

* **Sec. 13.** AS 39.35.870(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(c) The following persons are eligible to elect medical benefits under AS 39.35.880:

(1) a member who is eligible for retirement under (a) of this section;

(2) a member's surviving spouse if the member had retired or was eligible for retirement and medical benefits at the time of the member's death;

(3) a deceased member's surviving spouse, if the deceased member's surviving spouse has been determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 39.35.430; and

(4) a deceased member's dependent children if the deceased member's surviving spouse or dependent children have been determined to be eligible for payment of a monthly survivor's pension under AS 39.35.430.

* **Sec. 14.** AS 39.35.870(d) is amended to read:

(d) A person [MEMBERS] shall apply for retirement and medical benefits on the forms and in the manner prescribed by the administrator.

* **Sec. 15.** AS 39.35.870(g) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(g) If an eligible person elects not to participate in the retiree major medical insurance plan, the election becomes irrevocable upon application for employment or

when the person reaches 70 1/2 years of age, whichever is later.

* **Sec. 16.** AS 39.35.880(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(b) Retiree major medical insurance plan coverage elected by

(1) an eligible member under AS 39.35.870(c) covers the eligible member, the spouse of the eligible member, and the dependent children of the eligible member;

(2) an eligible surviving spouse under AS 39.35.870(c) covers the surviving spouse and the dependent children of the eligible member who are dependent on the surviving spouse;

(3) a dependent child under AS 39.35.870(c) or a person authorized to act on behalf of the dependent child covers the dependent child.

* **Sec. 17.** AS 39.35.880(d) is amended to read:

(d) Major medical insurance coverage takes effect on the first day of the month following the date of the administrator's approval of the election and stops when the person who receives [ELECTS] coverage is no longer eligible to receive coverage [DIES] or fails to make a required premium payment.

* **Sec. 18.** AS 39.35.880 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(l) Notwithstanding (g) of this section, a person who is eligible for major medical insurance coverage under AS 39.35.870(c)(3) or (4) is not required to make premium payments.

* **Sec. 19.** AS 39.35.894 is amended to read:

Sec. 39.35.894. Premiums for retiree major medical insurance coverage upon termination of disability benefits or survivor's pension. The premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage payable by an employee whose disability benefit is terminated under AS 39.35.890(g) or by an eligible survivor whose survivor pension is terminated under AS 39.35.890(k) [OR 39.35.892(e)] when the employee would have been eligible for normal retirement if the employee had survived shall be determined under AS 39.35.880(g)(2) as if the employee or survivor were eligible for Medicare. A person who receives major medical coverage under AS 39.35.870(c)(3) or (4) is not required to make premium payments for that coverage.

- 1 * **Sec. 20.** AS 14.25.480(c) and AS 39.35.880(c) are repealed.
- 2 * **Sec. 21.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
- 3 read:
- 4 RETROACTIVITY. This Act is retroactive to January 1, 2014.
- 5 * **Sec. 22.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).