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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 259(FIN) VERSION R

COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES

Sectional Analysis

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 amends the statutory limitation on the pay "step" level for the Chief Administrative Law Judge in the Department of Administration. Currently, this Range 27 position cannot be paid beyond step "F"; this section removes that limitation.

Section 3 amends the uncodified law to apply the salary increases described in Section 1 to certain exempt officers and employees of the executive branch who are not part of a collective bargaining unit. This includes both permanent and temporary employees, but explicitly excludes top executive positions such as the governor and lieutenant governor.

Section 4 similarly extends the salary increases to employees and magistrates of the judicial branch who are not members of any collective bargaining units. The intent is to align their salary adjustments with those described in Section 1.

Section 5 extends salary increases to non-union employees of the University of Alaska, stipulating that these adjustments follow the compensation policy set by the Board of Regents. It ensures that university staff not covered by collective bargaining agreements receive salary increases consistent with other state employees.

Section 6 makes the legislation effective July 1, 2024.