

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1997

Source

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Legislative
Resolve No.

34



Urging the state executive branch administration, University of Alaska administration, and Alaska Court System administration to negotiate collective bargaining agreements that result in a net zero cost increase.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the legislature has declared that it is the public policy of the state to promote harmonious and cooperative relations between government and its employees; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the state executive branch administration, university administration, and court system administration to negotiate and enter into collective bargaining agreements with the representatives of their employees; and

WHEREAS the legislature acknowledges that recurring revenues continue to fall short of recurring expenditures in the long term; and

WHEREAS the legislature is completing the second year of a five-year financial plan in an effort to close the fiscal gap between revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS the legislature finds it is not advisable to increase the cost of personal services in a time of deficit spending; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Labor in 1993 reported that Alaska public sector wages are 144 percent of the national average; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Commerce in 1993 reported that average Alaska state and local government salaries are 30.7 percent above the private sector; and

WHEREAS the state Department of Administration reported in 1994 that state employees are adequately compensated and may be ahead of the market for most job classifications; and

WHEREAS the Long Range Financial Planning Commission recommended the enactment of a tier III retirement system, the revision of geographic differentials, collective bargaining agreements based on market conditions, and an examination of publicly funded health plans to reduce personal services costs to the state; and

WHEREAS the legislature has appropriated funds to conduct an independent, objective study comparing state employees' pay and benefits with comparable private industry employees' pay and benefits; and

WHEREAS this salary and benefit study will further aid the state in responsible negotiations by providing a comparison on which to base future costs of personal services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the current state executive branch administration, university administration, and Alaska Court System administration to negotiate collective bargaining agreements that result in a net zero cost increase through reducing salaries, reducing benefits to pay increased salaries, implementing a two-tier salary structure, restructuring publicly funded health plans, or other methods; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if general fund revenues remain below expenditures, the Alaska State Legislature reserves the right to disapprove the monetary terms of any collective bargaining agreement that results in an increased cost of personal services.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska; the Honorable Mark Boyer, Commissioner, Department of Administration; Jerome Komisar, President, University of Alaska; and Stephanie J. Cole, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System.