

**SENATE BILL NO. 97**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 3/23/17**

**Referred: Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to pension obligation bonds."**

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 18.56.086 is amended to read:

4           **Sec. 18.56.086. Creation of subsidiaries.** The corporation may create  
5 subsidiary corporations for the purpose of financing or facilitating the financing of  
6 school construction, facilities for the University of Alaska, facilities for ports and  
7 harbors, the acquisition, development, management, or operation of affordable  
8 housing, prepayment of all or a portion of a governmental employer's share of  
9 unfunded accrued actuarial liability of retirement systems, or other capital projects. A  
10 subsidiary corporation created under this section may be incorporated under  
11 AS 10.20.146 - 10.20.166. The corporation may transfer assets of the corporation to a  
12 subsidiary created under this section. A subsidiary created under this section may  
13 borrow money and issue bonds as evidence of that borrowing, and has all the powers  
14 of the corporation that the corporation grants to it. However, a subsidiary created for  
15 the purpose of financing or facilitating the financing of prepayment of a governmental

1 employer's share of unfunded accrued actuarial liability of retirement systems may  
 2 borrow money and issue bonds only **after submitting a proposal to the Legislative**  
 3 **Budget and Audit Committee under (b) of this section,** if the state bond rating is  
 4 the equivalent of AA- or better, and subject to AS 37.15.903. Unless otherwise  
 5 provided by the corporation, the debts, liabilities, and obligations of a subsidiary  
 6 corporation created under this section are not the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the  
 7 corporation.

8 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.56.086 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (b) Before the issuance of bonds under this section, the subsidiary corporation  
 10 shall submit a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee for review,  
 11 and 45 days shall elapse before bonds are issued, unless the Legislative Budget and  
 12 Audit Committee earlier recommends that the subsidiary corporation proceed with the  
 13 issuance. Should the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee recommend within the  
 14 45-day period that the subsidiary corporation not proceed with the issuance of bonds,  
 15 the subsidiary corporation shall again review the proposal and, if the subsidiary  
 16 corporation decides to issue the bonds, the subsidiary corporation shall provide the  
 17 Legislative Budget and Audit Committee with a statement of the subsidiary  
 18 corporation's reasons for doing so before issuance under this section.

19 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 37.15.900(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) For purposes of financing prepayment of all or a portion of a governmental  
 21 employer's share of unfunded accrued actuarial liability of retirement systems,  
 22 including the costs of issuance and administration, the issuance and sale of bonds of  
 23 the state by the committee is authorized as provided in this section and AS 37.15.903 -  
 24 37.15.955, but only **after submitting a proposal to the Legislative Budget and**  
 25 **Audit Committee under (e) of this section and** if the state bond rating is the  
 26 equivalent of AA- or better. The net proceeds of the sale of the bonds remaining after  
 27 payment of costs of issuance and administration shall be transferred to the  
 28 commissioner of administration for the account of the governmental employer whose  
 29 share of unfunded accrued actuarial liability is to be prepaid for application to that  
 30 liability. Accrued interest paid on the bonds shall be paid into the pension obligation  
 31 bond redemption fund.

1 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 37.15.900 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (e) Before the issuance and sale of bonds under this section, the committee  
3 shall submit a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee for review,  
4 and 45 days shall elapse before bonds are issued and sold, unless the Legislative  
5 Budget and Audit Committee earlier recommends that the committee proceed with the  
6 issuance. Should the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee recommend within the  
7 45-day period that the committee not proceed with the issuance and sale of bonds, the  
8 committee shall again review the proposal and, if the committee decides to issue and  
9 sell the bonds, the committee shall provide the Legislative Budget and Audit  
10 Committee with a statement of the committee's reasons for doing so before issuance  
11 under this section.

12 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 37.15.903 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 37.15.903. Pension obligation bond limit.** The total unpaid principal  
14 amount of bonds, including refunding bonds, but excluding refunded bonds, issued by  
15 all state entities added together, for the purposes of financing prepayment of all or a  
16 portion of a governmental employer's share of unfunded accrued liability of retirement  
17 systems, may not exceed \$2,500,000,000 [\$5,000,000,000].

18 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 37.16.030(a) is amended to read:

19 (a) For purposes of financing prepayment of all or a portion of a governmental  
20 employer's share of unfunded accrued actuarial liability of retirement systems,  
21 including the costs of issuance and administration, the issuance and sale of bonds by  
22 the corporation is authorized as provided in this section and AS 37.16.040 - 37.16.900,  
23 but only after submitting a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit  
24 Committee under (e) of this section and if the state bond rating is the equivalent of  
25 AA- or better. The net proceeds of the sale of the bonds remaining after payment of  
26 costs of issuance and administration shall be transferred to the commissioner of  
27 administration for the account of the governmental employer whose share of unfunded  
28 accrued actuarial liability is to be prepaid for application to that liability. Accrued  
29 interest paid on the bonds shall be paid into the reserve fund.

30 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 37.16.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 (e) Before the issuance and sale of bonds under this section, the corporation

1 shall submit a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee for review,  
 2 and 45 days shall elapse before bonds are issued and sold, unless the Legislative  
 3 Budget and Audit Committee earlier recommends that the corporation proceed with  
 4 the issuance. Should the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee recommend within  
 5 the 45-day period that the corporation not proceed with the issuance and sale of bonds,  
 6 the corporation shall again review the proposal and, if the corporation decides to issue  
 7 and sell the bonds, the corporation shall provide the Legislative Budget and Audit  
 8 Committee with a statement of the corporation's reasons for doing so before issuance  
 9 under this section.

10 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 44.85.010(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) It is the policy of the state to

12 (1) foster and promote by all reasonable means the provision of  
 13 adequate capital markets and facilities for borrowing money by municipalities in the  
 14 state to finance capital improvements or for other authorized purposes, to assist these  
 15 municipalities in fulfilling their capital needs and requirements by use of borrowed  
 16 money within statutory interest rate or cost of borrowing limitations, to the greatest  
 17 extent possible to reduce costs of borrowed money to taxpayers and residents of the  
 18 state, and equally to encourage continued investor interest in the purchase of bonds or  
 19 notes of municipalities as sound and preferred securities for investment;

20 (2) encourage municipalities to continue their independent  
 21 undertakings and financing of capital improvements and other authorized purposes  
 22 and to assist them by making capital funds available at reduced interest costs for  
 23 orderly financing of capital improvements and other purposes especially during  
 24 periods of restricted credit or money supply, particularly for those municipalities not  
 25 otherwise able to borrow for capital needs;

26 (3) assist municipalities to provide for adequate insurance coverage by  
 27 authorizing the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority to issue negotiable or  
 28 nonnegotiable revenue bonds, notes, or certificates of participation either directly or  
 29 through an entity it may create for the purpose of providing a self-insurance program  
 30 for municipalities or municipal joint insurance arrangements organized under  
 31 AS 21.76;

1 (4) assist governmental employers to prepay all or a portion of their  
 2 share of unfunded accrued actuarial liabilities of retirement systems in an effort to  
 3 reduce their costs of satisfying their contractual obligations to provide retirement and  
 4 other benefits to public employees through the issuance of bonds, notes, commercial  
 5 paper, or other obligations by the bond bank authority or by a subsidiary corporation  
 6 created by the bond bank authority under AS 44.85.085, but only **after submitting a**  
 7 **proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee and** if the state bond  
 8 rating is the equivalent of AA- or better; this assistance is limited as provided in  
 9 AS 37.15.903;

10 (5) assist the University of Alaska to provide heating or energy  
 11 projects by providing capital funds through loans that minimize costs and the effects  
 12 on the debt capacity of the University of Alaska;

13 (6) assist regional health organizations to provide health care facilities  
 14 by providing capital funds through loans that minimize costs and the effects on the  
 15 debt capacity of regional health organizations when the commissioner of health and  
 16 social services anticipates a state financial benefit and an increase in regional quality  
 17 of care;

18 (7) assist joint action agencies in providing public utilities, including  
 19 hydroelectric power projects, through loans and bonds that minimize costs and the  
 20 effects on the debt capacity of public utilities and joint action agencies.

21 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 44.85.085(c) is amended to read:

22 (c) A subsidiary corporation created under (a) of this section may, **after**  
 23 **submitting a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee under (e)**  
 24 **of this section,** if the state bond rating is the equivalent of AA- or better, and subject  
 25 to AS 37.15.903, borrow money and issue bonds, notes, commercial paper, or other  
 26 obligations as evidence of that borrowing and may have all the powers of the bond  
 27 bank authority that the bond bank authority grants to it. The provisions of  
 28 AS 44.85.130 - 44.85.170 and 44.85.270 - 44.85.390 apply to the subsidiary  
 29 corporation and to bonds, notes, commercial paper, or other obligations issued by the  
 30 subsidiary corporation. Unless otherwise provided by the bond bank authority, the  
 31 debts, liabilities, and obligations of the subsidiary corporation are not the debts,

1 liabilities, or obligations of the bond bank authority.

2 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 44.85.085 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (e) Before the issuance of bonds under this section or under AS 44.85.086, the  
4 subsidiary corporation shall submit a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit  
5 Committee for review, and 45 days shall elapse before bonds are issued, unless the  
6 Legislative Budget and Audit Committee earlier recommends that the subsidiary  
7 corporation proceed with the issuance. Should the Legislative Budget and Audit  
8 Committee recommend within the 45-day period that the subsidiary corporation not  
9 proceed with the issuance of bonds, the subsidiary corporation shall again review the  
10 proposal and, if the subsidiary corporation decides to issue the bonds, the subsidiary  
11 corporation shall provide the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee with a  
12 statement of the subsidiary corporation's reasons for doing so before issuance under  
13 this section.

14 \* **Sec. 11.** AS 44.85.086 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 44.85.086. Powers of subsidiary corporation.** A subsidiary corporation  
16 created under AS 44.85.085 has the following powers in addition those granted to it  
17 under AS 44.85.085(c):

18 (1) to make loans to and enter into contracts with governmental  
19 employers;

20 (2) to incur debt, subject to AS 37.15.903, in furtherance of its  
21 purposes, in the form of bonds, notes, commercial paper, or other obligations as the  
22 subsidiary corporation considers appropriate, but only **after submitting a proposal to**  
23 **the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee under AS 44.85.085(e) and** if the  
24 state bond rating is the equivalent of AA- or better;

25 (3) to secure its debt with a pledge of any assets that are available to  
26 the subsidiary corporation for the purpose, including identified revenue and  
27 contractual payments from participating governmental employers, and the general  
28 assets and revenue of the subsidiary corporation; and

29 (4) to enter into contracts with underwriters, bond counsel, financial  
30 advisors, accountants, actuaries, and other contractors to provide assistance as the  
31 subsidiary corporation considers desirable to accomplish its purposes.

1 \* **Sec. 12.** AS 44.85.180(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) Subject to AS 44.85.100(b), the bond bank authority may issue its bonds or  
3 notes in principal amounts that it considers necessary to provide funds for any  
4 purposes under this chapter, including

5 (1) the purchase of municipal bonds;

6 (2) the making of loans through the purchase of municipal bonds,  
7 notes, or certificates of participation secured by an agreement between the bond bank  
8 authority and a municipality or a municipal joint insurance arrangement organized  
9 under AS 21.76;

10 (3) the payment, funding, or refunding of the principal of, or interest or  
11 redemption premiums on, bonds or notes issued by it whether the bonds or notes or  
12 interest to be funded or refunded have or have not become due;

13 (4) the establishment or increase of reserves to secure or to pay bonds  
14 or notes or interest on bonds or notes and all other costs or expenses of the bond bank  
15 authority incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out its corporate purposes  
16 and powers;

17 (5) assisting governmental employers to prepay all or a portion of their  
18 share of the unfunded accrued actuarial liabilities of retirement systems, with security  
19 as the bond bank authority considers reasonable; however, to carry out this paragraph,  
20 bonds and other obligations may only be issued **after submitting a proposal to the**  
21 **Legislative Budget and Audit Committee under (f) of this section and** if the state  
22 bond rating is the equivalent of AA- or better; bonds issued under this paragraph are  
23 subject to AS 37.15.903.

24 \* **Sec. 13.** AS 44.85.180 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 (f) Before the issuance of bonds under this section, the bond bank authority  
26 shall submit a proposal to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee for review,  
27 and 45 days shall elapse before bonds are issued, unless the Legislative Budget and  
28 Audit Committee earlier recommends that the bond bank authority proceed with the  
29 issuance. Should the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee recommend within the  
30 45-day period that the bond bank authority not proceed with the issuance of bonds, the  
31 bond bank authority shall again review the proposal and, if the bond bank authority

1 decides to issue the bonds, the bond bank authority shall provide the Legislative  
2 Budget and Audit Committee with a statement of the bond bank authority's reasons for  
3 doing so before issuance under this section.