

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY PHILLIPS

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 13

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Alaska longevity bonus."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 47.45.010(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) A person who is 65 years of age or over, who was domiciled in
10 the territory on or before January 3, 1959 and who has maintained a
11 continuous domicile in the territory or state for 25 years or has inter-
12 mittently maintained a domicile in the territory or state for a cumula-
13 tive total of 30 years, may apply to the commissioner of administration
14 for qualification to receive a monthly bonus of \$125.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 47.45.170 is amended to read:

16 Sec. 47.45.170. PURPOSE. The sole purpose of this chapter is to
17 offer and provide all law-abiding Alaskans capable of managing their own
18 affairs who have maintained a domicile in the state for at least 25
19 years continuously or 30 years intermittently and have reached a retire-
20 ment age of 65, an incentive to continue uninterrupted residency in the
21 state. Under no circumstances shall this chapter be considered a form,
22 type, or manner, of public relief. Bonuses made under this chapter are
23 not predicated on need even though they may appear to provide supple-
24 mental income to some qualified persons who would otherwise be forced to
25 become responsibilities of the state. The legislature further finds and
26 states that this legislation recognizes the economic hardships suffered
27 by many elderly Alaskans, Alaskans who through their tenacity and
28 perseverance molded Alaska as we know it through skillful application of
29 their talents. These pioneers are the same Alaskans, who in the prime

1 of their life were in effect treated as second-class citizens by the
2 federal government and who paid much of their hard-earned income to a
3 government in which they did not have the right to participate through
4 the power of the ballot. The legislature also is aware of the fact that
5 many of these pioneers have been forced to live out their retirement
6 years in areas far away from the land they loved and nurtured and
7 thereby also suffering, in many cases, the loss of familial relationship
8 with their own kin, an experience that is sad and frustrating to them as
9 well as depriving new generations of Alaskans of the benefits of their
10 wisdom and experience. This legislation hopefully will provide our
11 pioneers with the economic means to remain in and continue to serve
12 their state and to enjoy the opportunity of aiding the new Alaskan in
13 making this state truly "The Great Land."