Introduced: 1/17/78
Referred: State Affairs and Finance

IN THE HOUSE BY BRADLEY AND CARPENTER

CS HOUSE BILL NO. 639

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Alaska longevity bonus; and providing for an effective date."

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

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

(a) A person who is 62 [65] years of age or over, who was domiciled in the territory on or before January 3, 1959 and who has maintained a continuous domicile in the territory or state for 25 years may apply to the commissioner of administration for qualification to receive a monthly bonus of $125.

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

Sec. 47.45.170. PURPOSE. The sole purpose of this chapter is to offer and provide all law-abiding Alaskans capable of managing their own affairs who have maintained a domicile in the state for at least 25 years and have reached a retirement age of 62 [65], an incentive to continue uninterrupted residency in the state. Under no circumstances shall this chapter be considered a form, type, or manner, of public relief. Bonuses made under this chapter are not predicated on need even though they may appear to provide supplemental income to some qualified persons who would otherwise be forced to become responsibilities of the state. The legislature further finds and states that this legislation recognizes the economic hardships suffered by many elderly Alaskans, Alaskans who through their tenacity and perseverance molded Alaska as we know it through skillful application of their talents. These pioneers are the same Alaskans, who in the prime of their life were in effect

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

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1978.