

Original sponsors: Bradley and Carpenter

Offered: 2/27/78
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 639

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

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

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

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

10 (a) A person who is 62 [65] years of age or over, who was domi-
11 ciled in the territory on or before January 3, 1959 and who has main-
12 tained a continuous domicile in the territory or state for 25 years may
13 apply to the commissioner of administration for qualification to receive
14 a monthly bonus of \$125.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 47.45 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 Sec. 47.45.015. ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS. (a) The commissioner of
17 administration shall adjust the bonus rate provided for in sec. 10 of
18 this chapter in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index for
19 Anchorage, Alaska, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United
20 States Department of Labor. The Consumer Price Index for October 1977
21 is considered the initial Consumer Price Index.

22 (b) In making the adjustments under (a) of this section, the
23 commissioner shall comply with the following procedure:

24 (1) after November 30 and before December 31 of each year the
25 commissioner shall determine the change in the October Consumer Price
26 Index for the current year from the October Consumer Price Index for the
27 previous year;

28 (2) the commissioner shall then

29 (A) compute the percentage increase or decrease for that

1 period; and

2 (B) adjust the bonus rate set out in sec. 10 of this
3 chapter by the same percentage increase or decrease, rounded to the
4 nearest dollar;

5 (3) no later than the 10th day of each regular session of the
6 legislature, the commissioner shall submit the adjusted bonus rate to
7 the legislature; if not disapproved by the legislature by a resolution
8 concurred in by a majority of the members of each house within 45 days
9 after submission, or by the end of the session, whichever occurs first,
10 the new rate becomes law.

11 (c) The adjusted bonus rate becomes effective on July 1 of the
12 year in which it becomes law.

13 (d) If an adjusted bonus rate submitted to the legislature under
14 (b) of this section is disapproved by the legislature, the commissioner
15 may, within 15 days after the disapproval, submit a revised adjusted
16 bonus rate. That rate becomes law if not disapproved within 30 days or
17 by the end of the session, whichever occurs first, and becomes effective
18 July 1.

19 * Sec. 3. AS 47.45.170 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 47.45.170. PURPOSE. The sole purpose of this chapter is to
21 offer and provide all law-abiding Alaskans capable of managing their own
22 affairs who have maintained a domicile in the state for at least 25
23 years and have reached a retirement age of 62 [65], an incentive to
24 continue uninterrupted residency in the state. Under no circumstances
25 shall this chapter be considered a form, type, or manner, of public
26 relief. Bonuses made under this chapter are not predicated on need even
27 though they may appear to provide supplemental income to some qualified
28 persons who would otherwise be forced to become responsibilities of the
29 state. The legislature further finds and states that this legislation

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

18 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1978.
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