

Original sponsor: Phillips

Offered: 3/21/80  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 15

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH 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 65 years of age or over, who was domiciled in  
11 the territory on or before January 3, 1959 and who has maintained a  
12 continuous domicile in the territory or state for 25 years or who has  
13 intermittently maintained a domicile in the territory or state for a  
14 cumulative total of 30 years, may apply to the commissioner of adminis-  
15 tration for qualification to receive a monthly bonus of \$150.

16 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.45.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (d) For the purposes of (a) of this section, a person is con-  
18 sidered to have intermittently maintained a domicile in the territory or  
19 state

20 (1) if he is physically present in the state when he applies  
21 for the monthly bonus; and

22 (2) if each of the periods making up the 30 years of domicile  
23 is 12 months or more in length.

24 \* Sec. 3. AS 47.45.030 is amended to read:

25 Sec. 47.45.030. ABSENCE FROM THE STATE. A recipient shall notify  
26 the commissioner of administration when he expects to be absent from the  
27 state if the absence is for a continuous period that exceeds 30 days.  
28 After that notification, the recipient shall no longer receive bonuses  
29 from the Department of Administration after his last regularly approved

1 monthly application. Upon his return to the state he may again make  
2 application for a bonus. [WHENEVER THE ABSENCE IS FOR A CONTINUOUS  
3 PERIOD THAT EXCEEDS 180 DAYS THE RECIPIENT SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM  
4 RECEIVING BONUSES FOR THE NEXT 12 CALENDAR MONTHS AFTER HIS RETURN TO  
5 THE STATE. HOWEVER, WHEN THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES  
6 A PERIOD OF ABSENCE IS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE RECIPIENT, HE MAY NOT  
7 BE DISQUALIFIED, IF HE STILL OTHERWISE QUALIFIES UPON HIS RETURN TO THE  
8 STATE.] Continual absences from the state, even though reported, and  
9 failure to notify the commissioner of an expected absence may be grounds  
10 for disqualification.

11 \* Sec. 4. AS 47.45.170 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 47.45.170. PURPOSE. The sole purpose of this chapter is to  
13 offer and provide all law-abiding Alaskans capable of managing their own  
14 affairs who have maintained a domicile in the state for at least 25  
15 years continuously or intermittently for 30 years and have reached a  
16 retirement age of 65, an incentive to continue uninterrupted residency  
17 in the state. Under no circumstances shall this chapter be considered a  
18 form, type, or manner, of public relief. Bonuses made under this chap-  
19 ter are not predicated on need even though they may appear to provide  
20 supplemental income to some qualified persons who would otherwise be  
21 forced to become responsibilities of the state. The legislature further  
22 finds and states that this legislation recognizes the economic hardships  
23 suffered by many elderly Alaskans, Alaskans who through their tenacity  
24 and perseverance molded Alaska as we know it through skillful applica-  
25 tion of their talents. These pioneers are the same Alaskans, who in the  
26 prime of their life were in effect treated as second-class citizens by  
27 the federal government and who paid much of their hard-earned income to  
28 a government in which they did not have the right to participate through  
29 the power of the ballot. The legislature also is aware of the fact that

1 many of these pioneers have been forced to live out their retirement  
2 years in areas far away from the land they loved and nurtured and there-  
3 by also suffering, in many cases, the loss of familial relationship with  
4 their own kin, an experience that is sad and frustrating to them as well  
5 as depriving new generations of Alaskans of the benefits of their wisdom  
6 and experience. This legislation hopefully will provide our pioneers  
7 with the economic means to remain in and continue to serve their state  
8 and to enjoy the opportunity of aiding the new Alaskan in making this  
9 state truly "The Great Land."

10 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1980.  
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