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Referred: Health, Education & Social
Services, Judiciary and Finance

BY MALONE, ZHAROFF, WENDTE AND
SZYMANSKI

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 36

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the longevity bonus program; 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 is a resi-
11 dent of the state and who has been a resident of the state for not
12 less than one year immediately preceding the date of application,
13 [WAS DOMICILED IN THE TERRITORY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 3, 1959 AND WHO
14 HAS MAINTAINED A CONTINUOUS DOMICILE IN THE TERRITORY OR STATE FOR 25
15 YEARS] may apply to the commissioner of administration for qualifica-
16 tion to receive a monthly bonus of \$250.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 47.45.010(c) is amended to read:

18 (c) A person who otherwise qualifies to receive a bonus provided
19 for in this chapter may continue to do so only as long as that person
20 [HE] continuously resides [RETAINS A DOMICILE] in the state.

21 * Sec. 3. AS 47.45.150(2) is repealed and reenacted to read:

22 (2) "resident" means a person who, except for brief inter-
23 vals, medical treatment, military service, attendance at an education-
24 al or training institution, or for absences for good cause shown, has
25 resided in Alaska and who has maintained a domicile in Alaska; domi-
26 cile is the true and permanent home of a person from which that person
27 has no present intention of moving and to which that person intends to
28 return whenever away;

29 * Sec. 4. AS 47.45.170 is amended to read:

1 Sec. 47.45.170. PURPOSE. The sole purpose of this chapter is
2 to offer and provide all law-abiding Alaskans capable of managing
3 their own affairs who have resided [MAINTAINED A DOMICILE] in the
4 state for at least one year [25 YEARS] and have reached a retirement
5 age of 65, an incentive to continue uninterrupted residency in the
6 state. Under no circumstances shall this chapter be considered a
7 form, type, or manner, of public relief. Bonuses made under this
8 chapter are not predicated on need even though they may appear to
9 provide supplemental income to some qualified persons who would other-
10 wise be forced to become responsibilities of the state. The legisla-
11 ture further finds and states that this legislation recognizes the
12 economic hardships suffered by many elderly Alaskans, Alaskans who
13 through their tenacity and perseverance molded Alaska as we know it
14 through skillful application of their talents. These pioneers are the
15 same Alaskans, who in the prime of their life were in effect treated
16 as second-class citizens by the federal government and who paid much
17 of their hard-earned income to a government in which they did not have
18 the right to participate through the power of the ballot. The legis-
19 lature also is aware of the fact that many of these pioneers have been
20 forced to live out their retirement years in areas far away from the
21 land they loved and nurtured and thereby also suffering, in many
22 cases, the loss of familial relationship with their own kin, an expe-
23 rience that is sad and frustrating to them as well as depriving new
24 generations of Alaskans of the benefits of their wisdom and experi-
25 ence. This legislation hopefully will provide our pioneers with the
26 economic means to remain in and continue to serve their state and to
27 enjoy the opportunity of aiding the new Alaskan in making this state
28 truly "The Great Land."

29 * Sec. 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of AS 47.45, a person who

1 was not a recipient of bonuses under AS 47.45 as of July 1, 1982, but who
2 is qualified to receive bonuses under AS 47.45 as amended by this Act, and
3 who has applied for benefits within six months of the effective date of
4 this Act, is entitled to receive accrued retroactive bonuses as follows:

5 (1) a person 65 years of age or older as of July 1, 1982, is
6 entitled to receive monthly bonus payments beginning July 1, 1982;

7 (2) a person reaching the age of 65 after July 1, 1982, is
8 entitled to receive monthly bonus payments beginning on the date of
9 eligibility.

10 * Sec. 6. Sections 1 - 5 of this Act are retroactive to July 1, 1982.

11 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
12 10.070(c).