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Referred: State Affairs, Labor and  
Commerce, Health, Education and  
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY V. FISCHER

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SENATE BILL NO. 32

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a senior citizen employment  
7 program and fund; and providing for an effective  
8 date."

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

10 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that the  
11 wealth of experience, expertise, and wisdom of older Alaskans constitutes a  
12 valuable state resource. It is the intent of the legislature that this  
13 resource be developed in order to address the needs and problems of  
14 Alaskans, to enable older Alaskans to earn a reasonable wage, and to im-  
15 prove the general welfare of the people of the state.

16 \* Sec. 2. PURPOSE. This Act provides for a program of job training and  
17 full-time and part-time employment for senior citizens. The purpose of  
18 this Act is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate human,  
19 social, and environmental problems in Alaska by encouraging and enabling  
20 Alaska residents 55 years of age and older from all walks of life to per-  
21 form meaningful and constructive service to their communities and to find  
22 employment with public and private employers.

23 \* Sec. 3. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The senior citizen employment program  
24 is established under the Older Alaskans Commission, Department of Adminis-  
25 tration (AS 44.21.200). The executive director of the Older Alaskans  
26 Commission is the director of the program.

27 \* Sec. 4. FUND ESTABLISHED. (a) The senior citizen employment fund is  
28 established in the Department of Administration and consists of money  
29 appropriated to it by the legislature.

1 (b) The fund shall be administered by the director for the following  
2 purposes:

3 (1) to reimburse participating employers for wages paid to an  
4 enrollee and expenses incurred on behalf of an enrollee under terms of this  
5 Act;

6 (2) to employ or contract for staff and services necessary to  
7 accomplish the purposes of this Act.

8 \* Sec. 5. ENROLLEES. The director shall recruit, select, and enroll  
9 Alaska residents 55 years of age and older to perform full-time and part-  
10 time service in eligible programs under sec. 6 of this Act. The director  
11 may provide for the short-term training necessary to make the most effec-  
12 tive use of the skills and talents of enrollees.

13 \* Sec. 6. CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ENROLLEES. (a) The director may  
14 contract for the employment of an enrollee by any employer in the state to  
15 accomplish a purpose of this Act. A contract under this section shall  
16 provide for the employment of an enrollee at a wage of not less than \$5 an  
17 hour and may provide that an enrollee may work full time or part time, may  
18 share the job with another person, and may arrange to work on a "flex-time"  
19 basis. The contract may provide for on-the-job training or other job-  
20 related training to be given by the employer, with a guarantee of employ-  
21 ment upon successful completion of the training. The contract shall re-  
22 quire an employer of an enrollee to establish a procedure for an enrollee  
23 to present and obtain resolution of grievances with the employer concerning  
24 terms and conditions of employment. The procedure shall provide the en-  
25 rollee with notice and the opportunity to be heard. The contract shall  
26 require the employer to pay the wages of the enrollee, to provide all  
27 employee benefits required by state and federal law, and to provide the  
28 enrollee with a written description of the duties to be performed by the  
29 enrollee. The contract shall specifically provide that the employer will

1 not discriminate with respect to the program because of age, race, creed,  
2 color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, parental  
3 status, physical disability, or political affiliation. The contract shall  
4 provide that the enrollee may not be employed to displace an employee who  
5 is not an enrollee. The director upon request shall provide an enrollee  
6 employed under this program with a copy of the enrollee's contract of  
7 employment.

8 (b) An employer is eligible to receive reimbursement of not more than  
9 75 percent of the wages paid to an enrollee, and expenses authorized by the  
10 director and incurred on behalf of an enrollee, in amounts specified in the  
11 contract of employment and in a manner prescribed by regulations adopted by  
12 the Older Alaskans Commission.

13 (c) The director shall assign an enrollee to work in the community in  
14 which the enrollee resides, or a nearby community, unless the enrollee  
15 agrees to serve elsewhere in the state.

16 (d) Not less than 25 percent of the contracts under this section  
17 shall be for the employment of enrollees with private employers in the  
18 state.

19 \* Sec. 7. AUDIT. A program or business employing an enrollee under  
20 this Act is subject to audit by the legislative audit division.

21 \* Sec. 8. ANNUAL REPORT. The Older Alaskans Commission shall submit to  
22 the legislature each January a report of the activities of the senior  
23 citizen employment program.

24 \* Sec. 9. REGULATIONS. The Older Alaskans Commission shall adopt  
25 regulations necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

26 \* Sec. 10. DEFINITIONS. In this Act

27 (1) "director" means the executive director of the Older  
28 Alaskans Commission;

29 (2) "enrollee" means a person enrolled in the senior citizen

1 employment program;

2 (3) "resident" means a person who for 12 consecutive months  
3 immediately preceding enrollment in the senior citizen employment program  
4 has maintained a permanent place of abode in the state and has continually  
5 maintained a voting residence in the state.

6 \* Sec. 11. This Act is repealed June 30, 1990.

7 \* Sec. 12. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

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