

HB

159

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC 4/16/00

DATE: 4/14/00

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 16 April 00

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 159(FIN) am

"An Act permitting certain employees in state correctional facilities or employed in the Department of Corrections to convert their credited service under the public employees' retirement system to credited service as peace officers."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

- Senate Bill:
- same title
 - new title
- House Bill:
- same title
 - technical title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>W. Adams</i>	X	<i>Rec'd & All</i>	✓		
		<i>Gary Hilden</i>	✓		
		<i>Herb A. Finner</i>	✓		
		<i>Jim Donley</i>	✓		
Co-Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			
Co-Chair: <i>Alan R. Powell</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

<i>Admin</i>	<i>2/24/00</i>	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version... CSHB 159 (FIN)

(H) Publish Date: 2/25/00

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC 41600

Revision Date/Time _____ Dept. Affected Administration
 Title An act granting certain employees in state BRU Centralized Administrative Services
correctional facilities status as peace officers... Component Retirement and Benefits
 Sponsor Representative Davis
 Requester House Finance Component No. 64

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) allows peace officers to retire with 20 years of service and non-peace officers to retire with 30 years of service, regardless of age. The Finance Committee substitute to HB 159 would allow a non-correctional officer with 20 years of PERS state correctional facility service to convert that service to service as a peace officer, thereby allowing the individual to retire. The individual would be required to pay the full actuarial cost of this conversion, either in a lump sum or through a lifetime retirement benefit reduction. Since the full actuarial cost is paid by the employee, this legislation has no fiscal impact to the State of Alaska or other PERS employers.

Prepared by: Guy Bell Phone 465-4471
 Division Retirement and Benefits Date/Time 2/24/00 11:17 AM
 Approved by Commissioner Robert Poe Jr. Date 2/24/00
 Agency Department of Administration

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE GARY DAVIS

Committee Substitute to House Bill 159 (FIN) am Sponsor Statement

Correctional officers, like police officers, parole officers and fire fighters have the opportunity to retire after acquiring 20 years of service. This opportunity is offered primarily as an employment incentive. The state recognizes that these individuals are in a highly stressful and dangerous type of employment and offers the 20-year retirement as an inducement to remain with their careers.

Correctional officers, however, are not the only employees at Alaska's facilities faced with stressful, dangerous situations. Most other employees also have consistent contact with inmates on a daily basis. It doesn't matter whether they are working in the kitchen, in the infirmary, in maintenance, in the library or in the administrative offices. These employees work alongside of inmates every day. If there is a problem requiring a "lock down" situation, these employees are included in that lock down. It is this type of stress that can and does lead to high employee turnover. Allowing them to retire after 20 years of service instead of the current 30-year requirement can provide the incentive needed to keep them on the job.

House Bill 159 provides non-correctional officer employees this opportunity and incentive. It allows individuals to retire after 20 years of credited service at a correctional facility provided they pay the full actuarial cost of converting their service to service as a peace officer or agree to take an actuarial reduction in their retirement benefits.

House Bill 159 recognizes that any type of employment at correctional facilities can be stressful and dangerous. It provides individuals who work there an incentive to remain at their jobs. It can also result in benefits to the state. With less employee turnover, fewer funds are needed to train new employees. These savings can revert to the general fund, or they can be used to provide additional on-going training for existing personnel.

Additionally, HB 159 enables Department of Corrections employees in management positions of the division responsible for institutions or for community corrections to convert their service in the management positions to service as a peace officer. Often these positions are best filled by former correctional facility superintendents who have participated in the peace officer retirement system. When promoted to the departmental position, they are placed in the normal 30-year retirement system. This can cause a hardship on the department when recruiting for vacant positions because it is a deterrent to those most qualified for the positions. Allowing individuals to convert their management position service to that of a peace officer removes this deterrent and allows the department to more easily obtain those individuals most qualified for those positions.

HB159SS04/13/00



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE GARY DAVIS

Committee Substitute for House Bill 159(Fin) am

Sectional Analysis

"An Act granting certain employees in correctional facilities or employed in the Department of Corrections to convert their credited service under the public employees retirement system to credited service as peace officers"

Section 1: Allows non-correctional officer employees of a state correctional facility as defined in AS 33.30.901 to convert their credited service in that position to credited service as a peace officer upon retirement. Requires an employee who converts this service to service as a peace officer to pay the full actuarial cost of the conversion or to take an actuarial adjustment to the benefits payable based upon the conversion.

Allows Department of Corrections employees in management positions in the division responsible for institutions or for community corrections to convert their credited service in that position to credited service as a peace officer upon retirement. Requires an employee who converts this service to service as a peace officer to pay the full actuarial cost of the conversion or to take an actuarial adjustment to the benefits payable based upon the conversion. Management positions include division director, deputy director and assistant director.

AS 33.30.901(4) states

"correctional facility" or "facility" means a prison, jail, camp, farm, half-way house, group home, or other placement designated by the commissioner for the custody, care, and discipline of prisoners; a "state correctional facility" means a correctional facility owned or run by the state

HB159SA04/13/00



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on HB 159, dated 4/16/00.

My name is Patti Hurt, and I'm a correctional nurse at MatSu PreTrial, in Palmer. I have worked in this jail for 13 years this month. I am a responsible, experienced, and valuable state employee in this position. I have been there for inmate and staff alike in every situation a body can go through, except childbirth, while on duty and I have provided first-responder care with expertise. I am in the highest risk category in nursing for exposure to HIV, Hepatitis B & C, and tuberculosis.

I have been exposed also to the same stress, risks, and dangers that other peace officers are, working side-by-side with correctional officers in bad situations. I breathe in the pepper spray used to chemically take-down an inmate (or dorm), I perform the CPR on inmate, staff, or visitor if needed. I'm the person that counsels someone seeking HIV status, and then be the one that delivers the news of the tests, and helps the person to learn how to live with it without hurting others. I have had prior inmates follow me home from businesses in the Valley. I have inmates threaten me and threaten my children when they are denied things in jail. I am verbally abused every work week, things being said to me that a reasonable decent person would not tolerate on the street from someone.

My prior job experiences of working in every area of a hospital and nursing home has been used in this job. I enjoy this job—it is a specialty of nursing that has national certification recognizing it. I perform a type of nursing that not many people can or will do, and I certainly do not receive any thanks from my clientele. The Department of Corrections is not known for its Thank-yous, either, I assure you.

Turnover in this specialty is a major issue. I have lost count of how many state (and contract) nurses I have known in the department because of burnout and turnover. I can do this work for 20 years, but I can't do it for 30 years. I am presently earning another degree in nursing to allow me to move onward and upward out of Corrections because I know I will not last until retirement at 30 years here.

A vote of passage for HB 159 would be gratefully appreciated by me and every other correctional nurse that enjoys this kind of nursing. You will find a dramatic downturn in short-term nurses and far more nurses willing to continue through the especially tough times for a 20 year retirement. It is the nurses with my experience and savvy that save the State big bucks in malpractice and negligent medical lawsuits.

Thank you for considering what I've written to you.

Patti Hurt, RN, MSPT
P.O. Box 3691, Palmer, AK
(907)764-1070 home, unlisted
(907)746-0338 office.

ORIGINAL



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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
(committee name)
committee on HB 159 dated 4/16/2000
(bill/subject)

PLEASE Support HB 159!!
I AM HERE AT THE SEWARD LIO.
WE ARE NOT SURE WHEN YOU WILL
HEAR THIS BILL, SO I AM WRITING MY
THOUGHTS JUST IN CASE WE MISS THIS
HEARING - OK, THIS BILL REPRESENTS FAIRNESS
AND EQUITY TO ALL DOC EMPLOYEES. IMAGINE
WORKING RIGHT NEXT TO SOMEBODY WHO (IS REWARDED)
IN THE SAME JOB AND RISKS AS YOURSELF AND
THEY CAN RETIRE 10 YEARS EARLIER! DOC
IS A TEAM - WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER -
THE HARD FEELINGS ARE THERE - THIS BILL ->

Signed:

Kelly Martin
(Testifier)

(Representing / Optional)

Seward, AK
(Address)

(Phone No.)



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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
(committee name)
committee on HB 159, dated 4/16/2000
(bill/subject)

WOULD DEFINITELY MAKE FOR A MORE HUMOROUS
WORK ENVIRONMENT AND THIS MAKE FOR
A HAPPY TEAM PLAYERS! TO ME, IT IS
LUDICRIOUS TO HAVE TO ASK FOR THE BENEFITS
THAT MY FELLOW WORKERS ALREADY HAVE!

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE INTELLIGENT
MEN AT DOC, WHO TAKE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR
POSITIONS EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT GET THE
SAME RETIREMENT AS THEIR SUBORDINANTS!!
OH, BY THE WAY - IT IS PALM SUNDAY - WE ARE SITTING
HERE IN SEWARD AT THE LIO - THE HEARING WE WERE
TOLD WOULD START AT 1:00 AND IT IS NOW 1:30~
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS! I WORK TWO JOBS & TOOK OFF
FROM WORK TO TESTIFY AND YOU AREN'T THERE! PLEASE
PASS THIS BILL SO, I DON'T HAVE TO
MISS ANY MORE WORK! THANK YOU!

Signed:

(Testifier)

Kelly Martin

(Representing / Optional)

PO Box 1067

(Address)

Seward, AK 99604

(Phone No.)

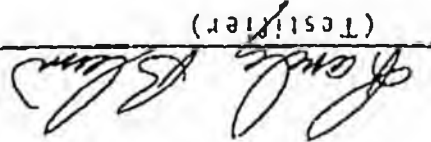
 (Phone No.)
 907-224-3720

 (Address)
 PO Box 1772

 (Representing / Optional)

 (Testifier)

Signed:



THANK YOU.

I ASK YOUR SUPPORT ON HB-159, IN THE FOOD SERVICE
 MANAGER AT SPRING CREEK CORRECTIONAL CENTER. THIS BILL I
 HOPE WILL STOP THE AMOUNT OF HIGH TURN-OVER IN THE
 FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT APPROXIMATELY 80 INDIVIDUALS IN THE
 LAST 8 YEARS. THIS COST MONEY ON OVERTIME AND STAFF
 TRAINING. WITH NO COST TO THE STATE, THIS IS A VERY
 GOOD BILL FOR THE EMPLOYEES AND THE STATE.

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
 (committee name) _____
 committee on _____
 HB-159 _____, dated _____
 4-16-00 _____
 (bill/subject)

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Testimony



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
(committee name)
committee on HB 159 dated 4-16-00
(bill/subject)

Please support HB 159. With the change in the bill stating employees can now start paying their indebtedness as soon as they claim it, there will not be a bill as large as Guy Bell has projected, at time of retirement. Each employee can start paying now. With no cost to the State Budget, why not vote YES? This is good for employees of correctional facilities. We should be receiving equal benefits for the retirement.

Signed: Cary A. Quiring
(Testifier)
(Representing / Optional)
P.O. Box 1943
(Address)
907) 224-7202
(Phone No.)

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

HB 159-PERS PEACE OFFR STATUS CORRECTION EMPLOYEE

NAME: Guy Bell Subject/Bill No: HB 159
Co./Dept./Title: Retirement + Benefits Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions