

**HB**

**223**

# Sponsor Statement

## Rep. Bill Hudson

### House Bill No. 223

#### Relating to the voluntary deduction of the amount of certain annual dues from retirement benefits

This bill creates a fairly simple change to two sections of Alaska's statutes that deal specifically with retired public employees. Retirees vested under the TRS or PERS system, may direct the Division of Retirement and Benefits to deduct their chapter membership dues directly from their pension benefits. Under current law, deductions or assignments, are prohibited. This bill proposes changes that would allow a very narrow exception - one requested by the retirees affected - to instruct the administrator of their annuity accounts to make these dues deductions directly from their benefit amount.

Membership in these retiree organizations is strictly voluntary. Membership dues are generally \$2.00 per month or \$24.00 per year. A dues check-off option created by passage of this legislation would allow a narrow exception to the "no-assignment" rule to streamline the membership dues process. The option would remain in effect until revoked by the retiree.

The bill allows the administrator to assess a reasonable administrative fee from the retiree to compensate for any actual costs, perhaps as a small percentage of the dues amount.

#### Sectional Analysis:

Section 1. Amends the Teacher's Retirement System chapter to allow for an exception to the non-assignment section.

Section 2. Adds a new section to allow for the assignment of a person's benefits for annual dues owed to a retirement organization.

Section 3. Amends the Public Employee Retirement System chapter to allow for an exception to the non-assignment section.

Section 4. Adds a new section to allow for the assignment of a person's benefits for annual dues owed to a retirement organization and allows the administrator to assess a fee.

Jan 22, 2002

January 10, 2002

Dear Representative Hudson:

I am a member of AARC 52 and I want to thank you for sponsoring HB223. Right off it will whittle down AARC 52's mailing costs and expenses associated with membership maintenance tasks, our biggest expense. We need a "dues check-off" for the benefit of retirees.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Bryant".

Linda Bryant  
10168 Marmot Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
(907) 344-0770

**Subject:** HB 223

**Date:** Wed, 30 Jan 2002 16:28:42 -0900

**From:** "Karla Josephson" <kjosephs@alaska.net>

**To:** <Representative\_Bill\_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>

JAN 31 2002

Thanks for introduction of this. I'm a member of AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52 and I support it. I'm writing Rep Coghill urging that hearings be held on the bill.

FEB - 5 2002

Follows is the sample letter:

Dear Representative **[Hudson]/(Coghill)**:

I am a retired Alaska public employee and dues paying member of Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52. **[I want to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 223.]** Passage of this legislation is extremely important to me and I will be following the progress of this bill throughout the legislative process.

The first committee of referral for HB 223 is House State Affairs. The members of AARC 52 **[will be encouraging Chairman Coghill] (encourage you)** to hold a hearing on HB 223 as soon as possible. Then we will be working on positive support for this change to the retirement statutes.

Currently, Alaska Statutes specifically prohibit the deduction of any items from retirement pensions. Through HB 223, we are requesting a narrow exception to this rule to allow voluntary deduction for retiree membership dues. This simple change will allow retired Alaskans to use a "Dues Check-off" option on the benefit form to maintain membership in retiree organizations such as AARC52. Retiree chapters would be limited to those that are affiliated with an organization representing current public employees. Additionally, any costs for administering the check-off program would be borne by the retiree chapters.

Once again, thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you toward passage of House Bill 223. The time is right to move forward on this important legislation and achieve a "Dues Check-Off" for the benefit of retired Alaskans.

Sincerely Yours,



MR. J HAROLD MICHAL  
PO BOX 3548  
VALDEZ AK 99688

*J. Harold Michal*  
AARC52 Member



## Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52

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HEADQUARTERS, 626 "F" Street . Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 277-5200 . Fax: (907) 277-5206 . (800) Numbers: Inside Alaska - 478-2732; Outside Alaska 496-2235  
retiree\_chapter@afscmelocal52.org . <http://www.afscmelocal52.org>

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FEB - 5 2002

February 1, 2002

The Honorable Bill Hudson  
State Capitol, Room 502  
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hudson:

The Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52 has officially set its 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention to meet at The Holiday Inn - Anchorage, on Saturday, March 9, 2002. We extend this invitation to you with anticipation that you will join us during this time and will favor the delegation with a review of House Bill 223, Voluntary Dues Checkoff from Retirement Benefits, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Should you have any questions, please contact ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Lobbyist Fate Putman at (907) 463-4975 or Bobbie Holmes-Carter at (907) 277-5200.

We look forward to hearing from you and would ask your confirmation in acceptance at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

L. Anne Bay, Treasurer  
on behalf of the AARC52 Executive Board

HB 223 JAN 28, 2002

JAN 6 5 2002

Dear Representative Hudson:

I am writing to ask you to please give the most support you can to H.B. 248, a bill that would correct a long-standing, unfortunate inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

Currently, "youth counselors," that is, the corrections officers that work in Alaska's youth facilities are excluded from 20-year retirement benefits even though their counterparts in the adult correctional system — indeed, almost everyone in both adult and juvenile correctional systems — receives these benefits. This inequity is unfair and is pulling the Division of Juvenile Justice apart.

I work in the Division's Juneau State Office. I am new to state government work (4 months), but already I've seen how this issue has prevented our Division from working as well as it could. Our youth counselors don't feel valued even though their work is vitally important. I am writing to you because I truly feel this inequity is one of the most pressing problems our Division faces.

Please support the passage of H.B. 248!

Sincerely,

Tony Newman  
825 CALHOUN Ave  
JUNEAU AK 99801

Representative JOHN Coghill  
State Capital, Room 102  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Retiree Paul Guy  
PO Box 6032  
NAPASKIAK, AK. 99559

Representative Bill Hudson  
State Capital, Room 502  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Gentlemen:

I AM A Retired ALASKA Public Employee AND dues PAYING member of ALASKA AFSCME CHAPTER 52. "I want to thank you both for SPONSORING House Bill 223" PASSAGE of this bill Legislation IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to me AND I will be following the PROGRESS of this bill thought out the LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

The first Committee of Referral for House Bill 223 is House STATE AFFAIRS. The member of AARC 52 will be ENCOURAGING Chairman Coghill (ENCOURAGE you) to hold A HEARING ON HB 223 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Then we will be WORKING ON POSITIVE SUPPORT for this CHANGE to the Retirement statutes. CURRENTLY, ALASKA STATUTES SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT the deduction of ANY ITEM from Retirement PENSIONS. THROUGH 223, we ARE REQUESTING A NARROW EXCEPTION to this Rule to ALLOW VOLUNTARY deduction for Retiree Membership dues. This SIMPLE change will allow Retired ALASKANS to use a "Dues Check OFF" option on the benefit form to MAINTAIN OVER

MEMBERSHIP IN RETIREE ORGANIZATION SUCH AS AARC52.

RETIREE CHAPTERS WOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE THAT ARE AFFILIATED WITH AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING CURRENT PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

ADDITIONALLY, ANY COSTS FOR ADMINISTERING THE CHECK-OFF PROGRAM WOULD BE BORNE BY THE RETIREE CHAPTERS.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TOWARD PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 223. THE TIME IS RIGHT TO MOVE FORWARD ~~PASSAGE~~ ON THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION AND ACHIEVE A DUES CHECK-OFF FOR THE BENEFIT OF RETIRED ALASKANS.

CINCERELY YOURS,  
Paul Guy  
AARC52 MEMBER

Dec 8, 2001

Dear Representative Coghill:

HB 223 is sponsored by Rep Hudson. It is my understanding the first committee of referral for HB 223 is House State Affairs. I encourage you to hold a hearing on HB 223.

Currently, Alaska Statutes specifically prohibit the deduction of any items from retirement pensions. HB 223 is requesting a narrow exception to this rule to allow voluntary deduction for retiree membership dues. This simple change will allow retired Alaskans to use a "Dues Check-off" option on the benefit form to maintain membership in retiree organizations such as AAPCS2. Additionally, any costs for administering the check-off program would be borne by the retirees.

Our membership is diverse, with as many being Republicans, as are Democrats, as are Independents. Support for HB 223 is a positive and a good thing to do for retirees.

Sincerely

Bill Bryant  
10164 Marriot Ct  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
907 344-0970

# Alaska State Legislature




REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON  
House Finance Committee

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182  
(907) 465-3744  
Fax (907) 465-2273

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative John Coghill, Chairman  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Bill Hudson   
Alaska State Legislature

SUBJECT: HB 223 Hearing Request

DATE: February 14, 2002

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I respectfully request that you schedule HB 223 before your committee at your earliest convenience.

I have enclosed a sponsor statement that contains a sectional analysis along with the bill, background information, and a small sample of letters of support for the bill. I have received no public comments opposed to this concept of allowing for a dues check-off for retirement membership deductions.

If you have any questions regarding this request please contact my staff member handling this legislation, Melanie Lesh at 465-4230.

Thanks for your consideration.





# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs

Committee on HB 223 - Voluntary deduction of Committee Name Dated February 28, 2002

Bill / Subject Certain annual dues from retirement benefits -

I am grateful to Rep. Bill Hanson for his introduction of H.B. 223 which would permit retirees, vested under PERS or TRS systems to deduct their retiree chapter dues directly from their retiree benefit amount.

This would permit the individual retirees (myself for example) to maintain continuing membership in the retiree chapters that we choose, without having to keep track of when our dues are due, to write checks, mail them, etc - these are minor inconveniences for most - but there are older members, whose interests the chapters are dedicated to serve, who find such things increasingly difficult to handle.

For the chapters involved, such a change would make budgeting easier (and keep the dues lower) because of the predictability of the amount - and timing - of the dues ~~to~~ income. It would also reduce the clerical effort needed to mail out dues statements, address dues payments, deposit checks, keep books on payments coming in at different times. This would reduce the pressure on limited staff - including volunteers -

Please pass this bill from committee with a "do pass" recommendation  
P.S. - This has been an interesting 2 hour 20 minutes - I had understood that HB 223 would be heard before the Whittier Private Prison Bill - but...

SIGNED:

Kyle E. Johnson  
Testifier

AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52  
Representing

710 Chena Ridge Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Address / Phone Number  
fax 907-479-9466



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Please pass this bill from committee with a "do pass" recommendation

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SIGNED:

Mike E. Joponen  
Testifier

AFSC 11E Retiree Chapter 52  
Representing

710 Chena Ridge Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Address / Phone Number Fax 907-479-9466