

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

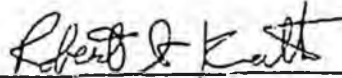
2367

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES,

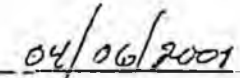
2001 - 2002

Be it further resolved that the Kawerak Board urges the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases (at least 30%) in order to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Signatures:



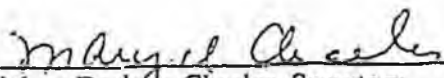
Robert Keith, Chairman



Date

Certification

I, the undersigned Secretary of Kawerak Inc, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Kawerak Board of Directors at a duly convened meeting held in Nome on April 6, 2001.



Mary Darlene Charles, Secretary



City of
White Mountain

P.O. BOX 130
White Mountain, AK 99714
(907) 638-3411

APR 17 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 2, 2001

Dear Senator Halford,

We support to pass Senate Bill 145. VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska-hence their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier." They have broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances, the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Tom Gray
Mayor
City of White Mountain

cc; Kawerak Inc.



IRA Council
P.O. Box 100
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771-0100

Phone (907) 955-3701

Fax (907) 955-2352

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Donny Olson
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

We support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145. VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska – hence their motto "First Responder. Last Frontier." They have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances the lone, trained, unarmed officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Edgar M. Jackson Sr.
Presid.

cc: Senator Rick Halford
Senator Dave Donley
Senator Pete Kelly
Josie Stiles, Kawerak VPSO Program

King Island

PHONE

Native Community

March 27, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

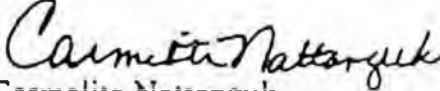
Dear Senator Halford:

We support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145 which was introduced by Senate President Rick Halford. The VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska - thus their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier". They have very broad responsibilities and they are in most instances the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in the same positions. Their benefits should be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are pleased that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to a fair level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,


Carmelita Nattarguk
Chief



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Rick Halford

President of the Senate

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB145 (FIN)

While in Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1152
907-465-4958

While in Interim:
P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, AK 99567
907-694-4958

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program is the first line of law enforcement in many small communities in the unincorporated areas of the state. Designed as a "first responder" law enforcement arm for many villages throughout the state, the VPSO program has established a commendable record of public service previously unavailable to these communities.

Although the VPSO program falls within the Department of Public Safety, the officers are actually employed by the Native nonprofit corporations responsible for the area. VPSO oversight, technical support, training and field support are provided by the Department of Public Safety. The selection of officers in a particular village is jointly approved by the nonprofit corporation and the Alaska State Troopers.

A VPSO learns about law enforcement, first aid, fire fighting and other public safety issues by attending an eight-week VPSO Academy, which includes a two-week fire-fighting course. Continued training is provided depending on the proficiency of the officer and the specific needs of the area.

VPSO officers are unique in that they are selected partly for their familiarity with and background in the geographic area they serve. Special consideration is given to hiring residents with a long history in the community. With specialized training unavailable to most villagers, the VPSO officer provides preliminary services that include law enforcement, EMS, first aid, fire fighting assistance, emergency search and rescue support, initial alcohol and drug abuse support for the community, domestic counseling and, equally important, scheduled and emergency contact with the Troopers.

At one time, there were over 120 VPSO officers in the state. Presently, the program consists of only 85 VPSO officer positions. Despite the successes of this program, it has been plagued with temporary shortages of officers. Investigations have exposed the most obvious reasons for the relatively high turnover rate among VPSO officers. Cited the most frequently were:

1. Inadequate pay
2. Lack of career opportunities
3. Lack of support from law enforcement community
4. Inadequate retirement system
5. Lack of support funds

Senate Bill 145 is designed to resolve some of the above complaints and to elevate the VPSO program to a point where it provides incentive for law enforcement stability within these small communities.

This legislation also creates a Regional Public Safety Officer (RPSO) program within the Department of Public Safety to serve as a link between the VPSO officers and the troopers, to provide a career path for VPSO officers and to provide a local supervisory position for which service as a VPSO officer is an important ingredient in the selection of regional officers. RPSO officers, like VPSO officers, will be allowed and encouraged to remain in the same area and not be required to move around the state like Troopers are required to do. The RPSO differs from the VPSO in that the regional officers will be state employees; they will be part of the Department of Public Safety and will participate in the state's retirement system. They will not be part of the police retirement system until they become certified police officers. Regional officers will have more supervisory and training responsibilities than village officers. Regional officers need not be certified police officers but in-service training opportunities will provide the option for the RPSO to meet required standards and receive certification while occupying the same position.

The fiscal note for SB 145 includes a pilot project for the RPSO system with the initial hiring of four regional officers. Continuation of this program will depend on favorable reports from the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections and the VPSO non-profit employers.

VPSO and RPSO officers will be given some probation and parole supervision authority as directed by the Department of Corrections. This will serve two purposes. Individuals on probation and parole will be allowed to serve within their own community rather than being forced to reside in larger more hostile situations where the individual does not have family support and is more likely to develop recurring problems. This will also serve to provide more responsibilities for the VPSO and RPSO officers concurrent with increased compensation.

This legislation has provided that the VPSO officer may be included in the state retirement system, but not under the police officer retirement system. Some VPSO officers may choose to remain under the existing non-profit corporation retirement system being provided.

It should be emphasized that neither the VPSO nor RPSO program is intended to replace an incorporated community police force. This program specifically targets communities with populations under 1,000 and does not provide the technical sophisticated law enforcement and training provided by many municipal police organizations. The VPSO and RPSO programs are designed to augment and complement other municipal and statewide law enforcement programs.

5/3/01

AMENDMENT #1

Held

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSSB145 (FIN)

Sec. 13. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

NOTICE TO REVISOR. The administrator of the public employees' retirement system shall notify the revisor of statutes of a ruling described in sec. 14(1) of this Act that is issued before March 1, 2002.

Sec. 14. Sections 4 and 6 – 10 of this Act take effect on the earlier of

- (1) a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service approving inclusion of those sections in the retirement system; or
- (2) March 1, 2002.

SB

145

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT
APR 20 2001
SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

DATE: 4/12/01

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 20 April 2001

Finance Committee considered **SENATE BILL NO. 145**
VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM

"An Act relating to the expansion of the village public safety officer program to include the provision of probation and parole supervision services, and to retirement benefits for village public safety officers."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SB 145 (FIN)
- adopt previous CS CS forthcoming ()
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

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

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
Administration	4/18/01		✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
Corrections	4/2/01	✓		2
Public Safety	4/10/01	✓		1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

APR 20 2001

SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: CSSB 145 (JUD)
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Title: An Act relating to the expansion of the Village
public safety officer program to include the provision of . . .
Sponsor: Senator Halford
Requester: Senate Finance Committee

Dept. Affected: Public Safety
BRU: VPSO Program
Component: VPSO/contracts
Component Number: 516

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	165.6	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3
Travel	4.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Contractual	127.7	32.7	32.7	32.7	88.7	32.7
Supplies	29.2	7.6	12.3	7.6	23.8	12.3
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	779.9	779.9	779.9	779.9	779.9	779.9
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1,107.1	1,160.9	1,165.6	1,160.9	1,233.1	1,165.6

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1,006.0	1,160.9	1,165.6	1,160.9	1,233.1	1,165.6
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 I/A Receipts	101.1					
TOTAL	1,107.1	1,160.9	1,165.6	1,160.9	1,233.1	1,165.6

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	4	4	4	4	4	4
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached pages for line-item details by section.

In FY2002 one-time federal grant funding will be available to cover training and equipment related costs including: ALETS Academy, boat lease/purchases, snowmachines and four-wheelers.

Prepared by: Ken Bischoff, Director Phone 465-5488
Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 4/18/01 12:00 AM
Approved by: Glenn Godfrey, Commissioner Date 4/18/01
Agency: Department of Public Safety

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

SB 145 makes two significant changes to the current Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program. First, VPSO program is amended to specifically incorporate probation and parole activities. Secondly, VPSOs would be made members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). The bill will also create a new Regional Public Safety Officer job class.

Note: Fiscal note was developed based upon the assumption that all provisions of the bill are fully funded. To the extent program changes under Sec. 4 – 8 are not funded, the VPSO program will necessarily experience a reduction in funded positions and/or direct services provided.

Sec. 2 of the bill expands the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program to include probation and parole supervision to persons under supervision of the Department of Corrections (DOC). VPSOs will be required to communicate with and monitor the activities and progress of these persons at the direction of DOC probation and parole officers. Chapter 137 SLA 98 provided \$115,000 to establish a Pilot Project within the VPSO program to provide probation and parole supervision through the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) and their eleven (11) VPSOs. \$20,000 was provided to train the 11 VPSOs on Probation/Parole supervision duties and \$95,000 for direct compensation. The pilot program has been continued through FY2000 and FY2001 with level funding.

	Personal Services	Indirect Costs	Total	Employees	Grand Total
Per VPSO Cost	\$ 6,784	\$ 1,843	\$ 8,627	11	\$ 94,987

Based on current contract with BBNA for 11 VPSOs (in bold above). Total contract is for \$94,897

SB 145 proposes to expand the VPSO oversight program to the other eight (8) regional non-profits who collectively employ 73.5 VPSOs. Using the same rate of compensation developed for the pilot program noted above, a statewide program will require \$634.1 in additional funding.

New 8 VPSO Programs compensation:

Native Corporations	APIA	AVCP	CHUG	KANA	KAWA	MANI	TCC	THCC	TOTAL
VPSOs	5.5	26	3	5	10	7	10	7	73.5
VPSO Personal Services	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	
Individual Indirect Costs	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	
Total for Personal Services	\$37,312	\$176,384	\$20,352	\$33,920	\$67,840	\$47,488	\$67,840	\$ 47,488	\$498,624
Total for Indirect Costs	\$10,137	\$ 47,918	\$ 5,529	\$ 9,215	\$18,430	\$12,901	\$18,430	\$ 12,901	\$135,461
Total	\$47,449	\$224,302	\$25,881	\$43,135	\$86,270	\$60,389	\$86,270	\$ 60,389	\$634,085

Amount noted above (\$634.1) is reflected on the Grants & Claims line.

Sec. 3 of this legislation will expand public safety presence in rural Alaska with the establishment of four Regional Public Safety Officer positions. Six months of funding and associated up front costs are requested in FY02. Details below:

	Year 1 FY02	Year 2 FY03	Year 3 FY04	Year 4 FY05	Year 5 FY06	Year 6 FY07
Average Cost of Entry Level Officer (Four Positions)	165.6	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3
Personal Services Total	165.6	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3	331.3
Instate Field Travel (transp, PD, training, aircraft charter)	4.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Travel Total	4.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Communications & DP Services (phones, fax, radio, data, postage, DP services)	12.7	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.3
Photo Processing/Reproduction	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
ALETS Academy Costs (tuition)	28.3					
PSEA Physical	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Boat Lease/Purchase	48.0				21.6	
Computer Lease/Purchase	9.6				9.6	
Snow machine/Four-wheeler	24.8				24.8	
Misc. Contractual (conf., training, equip. repair)	2.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Contractual Total	127.7	32.7	32.7	32.7	88.7	32.7
Office & DP Supplies	1.4	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Uniform & Access. (est. life 18 mos.)	9.4		4.7		4.7	4.7
Ammunition, law enforcement, fuel.	2.4	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Firearms (Pistol & Shotgun)	4.5					
Radios	11.5				11.5	
Supplies Total	29.2	7.6	12.3	7.6	23.8	12.3
Combined Total	327.2	381.0	385.7	381.0	453.1	385.7

Personal Services: Year 1 costs equals six months of salary & benefits (74A - Bethel Location)

Contractual: Year 1 includes 1/2 cost of "annualized contractual", one-time purchases (ALETS Training), and Equipment Lease/Purchase (boat, snow-machine, four-wheeler, and computer).

Supplies: Year 1 includes 1/2 cost of "annualized supplies" and one-time purchases (firearms and radio).

General Notes:

In calculating the cost per officer, we did not include office space.

Sections 4 – 7 relate to making VPSOs members of the State's PERS retirement system

Nonprofit	Employer Contributions					Employee Contributions	
	FY01 Salaries	PERS %	Indirect Rate	PERS Retirement	PERS %	PERS Retirement	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
		Column 1x2		column 3x4		column 1x6	
APIA	195,025	8.26%	16,109	1.253	20,185	6.75%	13,164
AVCP	889,212	8.26%	73,448	1.162	85,348	6.75%	60,022
BBNA	347,209	8.26%	28,679	1.273	36,509	6.75%	23,437
CHUG	66,781	8.26%	5,516	1.300	7,171	6.75%	4,508
KANA	126,875	8.26%	10,479	1.258	13,184	6.75%	8,564
KAWA	351,769	8.26%	29,056	1.260	36,611	6.75%	23,744
MANI	231,628	8.26%	19,132	1.220	23,342	6.75%	15,635
TCC	376,758	8.26%	31,120	1.167	36,317	6.75%	25,431
THCC	196,896	8.26%	16,263	1.165	18,947	6.75%	13,290
Base Total	2,782,153				277,613		187,795
PERS costs attributed to Probation and Parole Monitoring	573,200	8.26%	47,346	1.208	57,194	6.75%	38,691
					334,807		226,486
Net Offset for existing retirement benefits					(189,000)		
Net PERS Employer Fiscal Impact					145,807		

The amount noted above (\$145.8) is reflected on the Grants & Claims line.

NOTES:

1. The non-profits presently pay retirement benefit contributions of approximately \$189,000. This fiscal note is prepared on the assumption that participation in PERS would eliminate current retirement cost reimbursements to non-profits where VPSOs become PERS members. The fiscal note amount is reduced by netting \$334,807 in projected PERS costs against the \$189,000 in current retirement cost reimbursements.
2. Assumes that mandatory Employee contributions of 6.75% would be deducted from the employee's salary and have no impact to the non-profits employers or state grant program. It is the department's understanding that VPSOs do not presently make employee contributions to existing non-profit retirement plans.
3. Section 5 relates to entitlement to prior credited service. Employees do not have an option to buy back credited service until vested, after 5 years. At that time, the cost would fall solely to the employee. VPSOs who become PERS members would become Tier III members and would vest for retirement in 5 years, vest in 10 years for medical and would be eligible for retirement at age 60.
4. Salaries related to probation monitoring and parole activities were from the sum of salaries reported on the two schedules on page two of this fiscal analysis.

APR 20 2001

SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: CSSB 145
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time: 4/17/01 4:20 pm Dept. Affected: Corrections
Title: An. relating to regional and village public BRU: Administration & Operations
safety officers; relating to the expansion of the village public... Component: Community Corrections Dir. Office
Sponsor: Senator Halford
Requester: Senate Finance Committee Component Number: 1382

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	49.8	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5
Travel	75.4	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
Contractual	15.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Supplies	35.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
Equipment	20.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	195.2	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	69.8	96.5	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other IA 1007*	125.4	88.0				
TOTAL	195.2	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will expand the duties of Village Public Safety Officers to include assisting Field Probations Officers in monitoring probationers and parolees in rural communities. It will require coordinating with all the non-profit regional corporations to provide oversight to all of the communities. In addition, it will require initial and on-going training and field auditing to assure community safety and probationer/parolee compliance. FY02 reflects a 9 month period and the remaining years are full fiscal years. In order to accomplish this, the Department of Corrections will adopt regulations in accordance with Sec. 18.65.670(c). This will require: 1 Probation Officer IV, staff travel and 5 days centralized training for 74 VPSOs, office rent and communications costs for staff, supplies including office and urinalysis testing supplies for probationers, and equipment to include a staff computer (1st year) and breathalyzers for VPSOs.
*Interagency Receipts from the Dept. of Public & Safety for training of VPSOs for FY02 & FY03. Subsequent years will require other sources of funds.

Prepared by: Candace Brower
Division: Commissioner's Office
Approved by: Margaret Pugh
Agency: Department of Corrections

Phone 465-4652
Date/Time 4/17/01 4:30pm
Date 4/17/01

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

APR 20 2001

SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: CS SB 145(FIN)
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: An Act relating to the expansion of the v BRU: Centralized Administrative Services
public safety officer program Component: Retirement and Benefits
Sponsor: Senator Halford
Requester: Senate Finance Component Number: 64

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
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						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CSSB 145(FIN) will not increase cost to the Public Employees Retirement System because all costs will be fully paid by the VPSO's and their employers.

Prepared by: Guy Bell, Director Phone 465-4471
Division: Retirement and Benefits Date/Time April 18, 2001
Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date April 18, 2001
Agency: Department of Administration

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

adopted

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

22-LS0584X
Cramer
4/18/01

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 145()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HALFORD, Ward, Lincoln, Olson, Austerman, Hoffman

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to regional and village public safety officers; relating to the expansion
2 of the village public safety officer program to include the provision of probation and
3 parole supervision services; and relating to retirement benefits for village public safety
4 officers."

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
7 to read:

8 INTENT. This Act is intended to strengthen the delivery of law enforcement to the
9 most remote and inaccessible areas of the state. It enhances the role of the village public
10 safety officer by providing additional responsibilities concurrent with additional pay and
11 improved retirement benefits. In addition, providing delegated probation and parole
12 responsibilities significantly enhances the recovery of offenders, decreasing ultimate state
13 costs while increasing citizen benefits. This Act is intended to improve law enforcement
14 services to rural areas by providing a career path for village public safety officers through the

1 creation of a regional public safety officer program. Regional public safety officers will be
2 certified police officers. It is also intended, however, that the regional public safety officer be
3 assigned job duties and jurisdictional authorities that are distinct and separate from those
4 assigned to state troopers.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 09.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 09.65.280. Civil liability of state for acts or omissions of village public**
7 **safety officers.** Notwithstanding another provision of law, the state and its officers,
8 agents, and employees are not liable in tort, except for an act or omission that
9 constitutes gross negligence or reckless or intentional misconduct, for damages for the
10 injury to or death of a person or property damage resulting from the supervision of,
11 training of, actions of or failure to act of, or use of or failure to use village public
12 safety officers in communicating with or monitoring the activities of persons on
13 probation or parole.

14 * Sec. 3. AS 18.65.670 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 18.65.670. Village public safety officers program.** (a) There is created
16 in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety officer program to assist
17 local governments and villages through nonprofit regional corporations to appoint,
18 train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to
19 administer functions relative to

20 (1) the protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and

21 (2) providing probation and parole supervision to persons under
22 supervision by communicating with and monitoring the activities and progress of
23 these persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

24 (b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public
25 safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety
26 officers. The commissioner of public safety shall coordinate with the
27 commissioner of corrections when providing grants under this section, and the
28 commissioners shall jointly execute an agreement with the nonprofit regional
29 corporations.

30 (c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village
31 public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for

1 community or corporation participation, and the interaction between the Department
2 of Public Safety and village public safety officers. The commissioner of corrections
3 may adopt regulations related to the functions of village public safety officers
4 providing probation and parole supervision.

5 * Sec. 4. AS 18.65.670 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (d) A village public safety officer employed under the village public safety
7 officer program established by this section is a member of the public employees'
8 retirement system under AS 39.35 unless the officer waives coverage under
9 AS 39.35.127.

10 * Sec. 5. AS 18.65 is amended by adding a new section to article 9 to read:

11 **Sec. 18.65.680. Regional public safety officers.** The commissioner of public
12 safety may appoint regional public safety officers to

13 (1) provide an expanded public safety and law enforcement presence in
14 rural areas of the state;

15 (2) provide oversight and training for the village public safety officer
16 program;

17 (3) administer functions relating to

18 (A) protecting life and property in the rural areas of the state;

19 (B) conducting investigations;

20 (C) conducting search and rescue missions;

21 (D) conducting local training programs in drug and alcohol
22 awareness and prevention, water safety, and gun safety;

23 (4) perform other duties relating to public safety as directed by the
24 commissioner.

25 * Sec. 6. AS 39.35.120 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 39.35.120. Commencement of participation.** (a) An employee of the
27 state shall be included in this system upon commencement of employment with the
28 state, or on January 1, 1961, whichever is later. Unless an employee has elected to
29 participate in the optional university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 -
30 14.40.799, an employee of a political subdivision or public organization that becomes
31 an employer shall be included in the system on the effective date of the employer's

1 participation or the date of the employee's commencement of employment with the
2 employer, whichever is later. Unless the village public safety officer waives
3 coverage under AS 39.35.127, a village public safety officer employed under the
4 village public safety officer program established in AS 18.65.670 is included in
5 this system on the effective date of this Act or upon the officer's commencement
6 of employment with the employer, whichever is later.

7 (b) Inclusion in the system is a condition of employment for an employee
8 except as otherwise provided for

9 (1) an elected official;

10 (2) [AND FOR] an employee of the university who has elected to
11 participate in the optional university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 -
12 14.40.799; and

13 (3) a village public safety officer employed by a nonprofit regional
14 corporation as set out in AS 39.35.127.

15 * Sec. 7. AS 39.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 Sec. 39.35.127. Participation of village public safety officers. A village
17 public safety officer employed by a nonprofit regional corporation is included in the
18 system unless the officer files a written waiver of coverage with the administrator
19 within 90 days after the effective date of this Act or within 90 days after the date on
20 which the officer begins employment as a village public safety officer, whichever is
21 later. A waiver is retroactive to the effective date of this Act or to the date on which
22 the officer began employment as a village public safety officer, whichever applies.
23 The waiver must be in writing on a form provided by the administrator and must be
24 filed with the administrator. A waiver under this subsection is irrevocable.

25 * Sec. 8. AS 39.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

26 Sec. 39.35.285. Employers of village public safety officers. For purposes of
27 AS 39.35.250 - 39.35.290, all the nonprofit regional corporations employing village
28 public safety officers shall be treated jointly as a single employer.

29 * Sec. 9. AS 39.35.342(a) is amended to read:

30 (a) Except for employment for which the employee waived coverage
31 under AS 39.35.127, a [A] vested employee is entitled to credited service for

1 employment as a village public safety officer under the program established under
2 AS 18.65.670 for which the employee has not otherwise received credited service
3 under this system. An employee is not entitled to credited service for employment as
4 a village public safety officer unless the employee was employed as a village public
5 safety officer for at least one year. [THE CREDITED SERVICE ALLOWED MAY
6 NOT EXCEED AN AGGREGATE PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.] Benefits are not
7 payable on credited service for village public safety officer service under this section
8 unless the employee makes retroactive contributions to the system for the period of
9 time that service credit is claimed.

10 * Sec. 10. AS 39.35.680(17) is amended to read:

11 (17) "employer" means

12 (A) the State of Alaska;

13 (B) a nonprofit regional corporation, but only with respect
14 to village public safety officers employed by the corporation under
15 AS 18.65.670 who have not terminated participation in the system under
16 AS 39.35.127; or

17 (C) a political subdivision or public organization of the state
18 that participates in the system;

19 * Sec. 11. AS 39.35.680(28) is amended to read:

20 (28) "peace officer" or "fire fighter" means an employee occupying a
21 position as a peace officer, chief of police, regional public safety officer, correctional
22 officer, correctional superintendent, fire fighter, fire chief, or probation officer, but
23 does not include a village public safety officer employed by a village public safety
24 officer program established under AS 18.65.670;

25 * Sec. 12. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
26 read:

27 APPLICABILITY. This Act does not modify the terms of a contract between the state
28 and a nonprofit regional corporation in existence on the effective date of this Act.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Rick Halford

President of the Senate

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB145 (JUD)

While in Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4958

While in Intern:
P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, AK 99567
907-694-4958

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program is the first line of law enforcement in many small communities in the unincorporated areas of the state. Designed as a "first responder" law enforcement arm for many villages throughout the state, the VPSO program has established a commendable record of public service previously unavailable to these communities.

Although the VPSO program falls within the Department of Public Safety, the officers are actually employed by the Native nonprofit corporations responsible for the area. VPSO oversight, technical support, training and field support are provided by the Department of Public Safety. The selection of officers in a particular village is jointly approved by the nonprofit corporation and the Alaska State Troopers.

A VPSO learns about law enforcement, first aid, fire fighting and other public safety issues by attending an eight-week VPSO Academy, which includes a two-week fire-fighting course. Continued training is provided depending on the proficiency of the officer and the specific needs of the area.

VPSO officers are unique in that they are selected partly for their familiarity with and background in the geographic area they serve. Special consideration is given to hiring residents with a long history in the community. With specialized training unavailable to most villagers, the VPSO officer provides preliminary services that include law enforcement, EMS, first aid, fire fighting assistance, emergency search and rescue support, initial alcohol and drug abuse support for the community, domestic counseling and, equally important, scheduled and emergency contact with the Troopers.

At one time, there were over 120 VPSO officers in the state. Presently, the program consists of only 85 VPSO officer positions. Despite the successes of this program, it has been plagued with temporary shortages of officers. Investigations have exposed the most obvious reasons for the relatively high turnover rate among VPSO officers. Cited the most frequently were:

1. Inadequate pay
2. Lack of career opportunities
3. Lack of support from law enforcement community
4. Inadequate retirement system
5. Lack of support funds

Senate Bill 145 is designed to resolve some of the above complaints and to elevate the VPSO program to a point where it provides incentive for law enforcement stability within these small communities.

This legislation also creates a Regional Public Safety Officer (RPSO) program within the Department of Public Safety to serve as a link between the VPSO officers and the troopers, to provide a career path for VPSO officers and to provide a local supervisory position for which service as a VPSO officer is an important ingredient in the selection of regional officers. RPSO officers, like VPSO officers, will be allowed and encouraged to remain in the same area and not be required to move around the state like Troopers are required to do. The RPSO differs from the VPSO in that the regional officers will be state employees; they will be part of the Department of Public Safety and will participate in the state's retirement system. They will not be part of the police retirement system until they become certified police officers. Regional officers will have more supervisory and training responsibilities than village officers. Regional officers need not be certified police officers but in-service training opportunities will provide the option for the RPSO to meet required standards and receive certification while occupying the same position.

The fiscal note for SB 145 includes a pilot project for the RPSO system with the initial hiring of four regional officers. Continuation of this program will depend on favorable reports from the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections and the VPSO non-profit employers.

VPSO and RPSO officers will be given some probation and parole supervision authority as directed by the Department of Corrections. This will serve two purposes. Individuals on probation and parole will be allowed to serve within their own community rather than being forced to reside in larger more hostile situations where the individual does not have family support and is more likely to develop recurring problems. This will also serve to provide more responsibilities for the VPSO and RPSO officers concurrent with increased compensation.

This legislation has provided that the VPSO officer may be included in the state retirement system, but not under the police officer retirement system. Some VPSO officers may choose to remain under the existing non-profit corporation retirement system being provided.

It should be emphasized that neither the VPSO nor RPSO program is intended to replace an incorporated community police force. This program specifically targets communities with populations under 1,000 and does not provide the technical sophisticated law enforcement and training provided by many municipal police organizations. The VPSO and RPSO programs are designed to augment and complement other municipal and statewide law enforcement programs.



IRA Council
P.O. Box 100
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771-0100

Phone (907) 955-3701

Fax (907) 955-2352

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Donny Olson
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

We support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145. VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska – hence their motto "First Responder. Last Frontier." They have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances the lone, trained, unarmed officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edgar M. Jackson Sr.', is written over a horizontal line.

Edgar M. Jackson Sr.
President

cc: Senator Rick Halford
Senator Dave Donley
Senator Pete Kelly
Josie Stiles, Kawerak VPSO Program

King Island

PHONE

Native Community

March 27, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

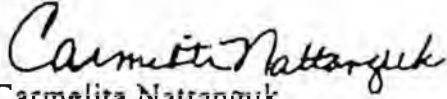
Dear Senator Halford:

We support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145 which was introduced by Senate President Rick Halford. The VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska - thus their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier". They have very broad responsibilities and they are in most instances the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in the same positions. Their benefits should be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are pleased that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to a fair level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,


Carmelita Nattanguk
Chief

City of Shaktoolik



P. O. Box 10
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Halford

We are in support of passing Senate Bill 145. The VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire, suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska. They have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their communities.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14 to 38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in similar positions. The VPSO's benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their position.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced in which we are in support of. We would like to thank you for your time in supporting our VPSO Program throughout Alaska. We would like to urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate funding for VPSO wage increase so that it can be brought to an equitable level. Thank You for supporting Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar M. Jackson Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Edgar M. Jackson Sr.-City of Shaktoolik
Mayor

Shishmaref Kawerak, Inc
P.O. Box 154
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

.....
Kawerak, Inc.

April 2, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capitol, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Halford:

I support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145.

VPSO's put their lives on the line in a job that is both dangerous and demanding in order to serve their communities.

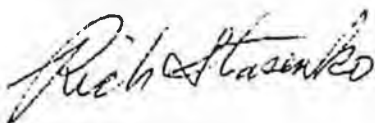
They provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska - hence their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier." They have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances, the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

Yet, VPSO's are underpaid. Their pay is 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits needs to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS.

Low wages and fewer benefits promote a high turnover rate for VPSO's. This fact puts people in Rural Communities at risk. It is critical to the safety and health of the citizens Rural Alaska to pass Senate Bill 145.

I am grateful for the introduction of Senate Bill 145. The Alaska Legislature needs to support Senate Bill 145 with appropriate funds.

Sincerely,



Rich Stasenko
Regional EET Specialist

CITY OF GAMBELL

March 29, 2001

TO: Honorable Rick Halford
State Capitol, RM# 7
Juneau, AK 99801

FROM: City of Gambell
P.O. Box 189
Gambell, AK 99742

Dear Senator Halford,

The City of Gambell supports the passage of Senate Bill 145. VPSO's are our #1 Rural Law Enforcement Officers, in which they provide law enforcement, search & rescue, EMT, and fire support in our communities.

VPSO's are paid less than other municipal counterparts which are employed in the same field, law enforcement. Their benefits should also be the same as other peace officers in Alaska, which are under the PERS. VPSO's turnover rate is high due to low wages, their employed in a highly dangerous job, where they are unarmed.

We are thankful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced. We urge the Alaska Legislature to pass the Senate Bill, this Bill could greatly improve Public Safety in Rural Alaska, with the increase of wages & benefits for the VPSO's.

Wilbur Booslu
Mayor
City of Gambell

Preston Apangalok
City Administrator
for Wilbur Booslu
[Signature]

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

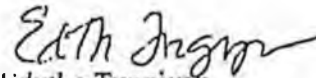
Dear Senator Halford:

I am writing this as an individual, strongly supporting Senate Bill 145. I have known this issue to be the most important and yet never get any support whatsoever since time immemorial. It is long overdue, and I am glad to see it is finally getting attention and support the program needs.

To give you my experience, I am from Gambell, now living in Nome. Gambell always had and will always have law enforcement problems. Even with the funding from the Federal COPS and UHP, where we created Peace Officer positions with much higher hourly wages, we still see high turn over, due to lack of training, benefits and support from the community. I believe we will have interest from the community members and non-residents alike if this important Bill passes. We have experienced and seen much heartache, as Gambell is notoriously known for crimes that you do not see in many small communities, which I'm sure the State is aware of.

Again, I am in full support of this important Bill and I hope it will get full support from legislation! Thank- you.

Sincerely,



Edythe Tungiyah
Dedicated Voter from Nome Area

Brevig Mission V.P.S.O.
P.O. Box 79
Brevig Mission, Alaska 99785
Phone: (907) 642-2264

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capitol, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Halford:

As a V.P.S.O. and a citizen of rural Alaska I strongly support the efforts to pass Senate Bill 145. As a V.P.S.O. I provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services and search and rescue services in my rural community of Brevig Mission. In most situations I'm alone with no back up or help, and most of the situations that I must face are dangerous and potentially life threatening.

We as V.P.S.Os are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than our municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Due to our low wages I'm forced to take an extended leave of absence from the V.P.S.O. program to pursue a higher paying job opportunity, which will begin in the spring and last till late fall, so that I may make ends meet financially.

I'm truly grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and I thank you for this time to express my support. I urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for V.P.S.O. wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.
"First Responders, Last Frontier."

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Bloomstrand Jr.
Village Public Safety Officer



KAWERAK, INC.

P.O. BOX 948 • NOME ALASKA 99762

TELEPHONE: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-3708

- SERVING THE VILLAGES OF:
- BRVIG AVUSION COUNCIL
- DIOMEDE
- ELIM
- GAMBELL
- GOLDVIN
- KING ISLAND
- KUYUK
- MARY'S IGLOO
- NOME
- SAVOONGA
- SHAKTOOLIK
- SHIENAREF
- SOLOMON
- STEBBINS
- ST MICHAEL
- TELLU
- UNAIKIFFT
- WILES
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
 The Honorable Dave Donley
 The Honorable Pete Kelly
 The Honorable Donny Olson
 State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Gentlemen:

On behalf of Kawerak Inc., I am writing to express our support for the passage of Senate Bill 145. Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska – hence their motto "First Responder Last Frontier." They have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances, the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we encourage you to actively work for its passage. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kawerak Inc

Loretta Bullard
 President

cc: Senator Ward, Senator Lincoln, Senator Hoffman, Senator Austerman

City of St. Michael
Box 70
St. Michael, Alaska 99659
Ph.#. (907) 923-3222 Fax #(907) 923-2284

March 30, 2001

The Honorable Donald C. Olson
Alaska State Senator
State Capital, Room 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

First of all I would like to thank Rick Halford who introduced the legislation on Senate Bill 145 and Senate Finance Co-Chair Dave Donley and Pete Kelly. The Village Public Safety Officer Program is the only other service provided to 227 tribes in the great state of Alaska.

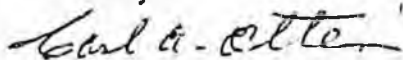
Unlike the other 226 villages St. Michael populace of 412+ people depend on our female VPSO For the demand of vital services such as search and rescue, and supervise people on probation and parole. Our nearest Alaska State Trooper who are located in Nome are 93 airmiles North of St. Michael. Because of the lack of domestic supervision for persons on probation , Recurring incarceration incidents occur for the same people. Making it more expensive and Overbooked jails throughout the state.

The VPSO wages and retirement benefits are long over due. The facilities in the villages are Shacks and the one in St. Michael in squeezed into a small 16'x16' and one tiny cell @ 10'x 6', Built into our small community building which is 23 years old.

We should not take precious time away from VPSO's when they are trying to be eligible for Foodstamps that takes lots of time and effort when they have to get their wages faxed in or other pertinent information for Public Assistance or another part time job.

Thank you for your very important legislation and we give you elected leaders the power of Authority to enhance the Safety, Health and Welfare of our 226 villages who lack the many Resources a number of the metropolitan cities already have in this great big beautiful State of Alaska.

Sincerely:



Carl A. Otten
The Honorable Mayor
City of St. Michael

Cc: The Honorable Alaska State Senator Rick Halford
The Honorable Alaska State Senator Dave Donley
The Honorable Alaska State Senator Pete Kelly

Co/vw



KAWERAK, INC.



P.O. BOX 948 • NOME, ALASKA 99762



TELEPHONE: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-~~378~~ 4452

SERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:

- BREVIG MISSION
- COUNCIL
- DIOMEDE
- EUM
- GAMBELL
- COLOVIN
- KING ISLAND
- KOYUK
- MARYS' GLOO
- NOME
- SAVOONGA
- SHAKTOOIC
- SHISHMARUP
- SOLOMON
- STEBBINS
- ST. MICHAEL
- TELLER
- UNALASKA
- WALES
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

RESOLUTION 01-05

Support for Alaska Senate Bill 145 – VPSO Program

Whereas, Village Public Safety Officers provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska – hence their motto “First Responders – Last Frontier;” and

Whereas, Village Public Safety Officers have very broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances, the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community; and

Whereas, Village Public Safety Officers are paid up to 38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions;

Whereas, the benefits provided to Village Public Safety Officers need to be consistent with other peace officers in the Alaska Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

Whereas, the high turnover rate of Village Public Safety Officers is mainly due to the low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 145 has been introduced in the Alaska Senate that would make additional funding available for Village Public Safety Officers wages by having them provide parole supervision services at the village level, and to allow Village Public Safety Officers to participate in PERS;

Now therefore be it resolved the Kawerak Board of Directors expresses their collective support for Senate Bill 145 and requests the Alaska Legislature to pass the bill; and

Be it further resolved that the Kawerak Board urges the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases (at least 30%) in order to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Signatures:

Robert J. Keith
Robert Keith, Chairman

04/06/2001
Date

Certification

I, the undersigned Secretary of Kawerak Inc, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Kawerak Board of Directors at a duly convened meeting held in Nome on April 6, 2001.

Mary Darlene Charles
Mary Darlene Charles, Secretary



City of
White Mountain

P.O. BOX 130
White Mountain, AK 99714
(907) 638-3411

APR 17 2001

The Honorable Rick Halford
State Capital, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 2, 2001

Dear Senator Halford,

We support to pass Senate Bill 145. VPSO's provide law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and search and rescue services in rural and isolated communities throughout Alaska-hence their motto "First Responders, Last Frontier." They have broad responsibilities and they are, in most instances, the lone, trained, unarmed peace officer in their community.

VPSO's are paid anywhere from 14-38% less than their municipal counterparts employed in like positions. Their benefits need to be consistent with other peace officers in Alaska PERS. The VPSO turnover rate is mainly due to low wages and benefits provided in relation to the high responsibility and dangerous nature of their job.

We are grateful that Senate Bill 145 was introduced and we thank you for this time to express our support. We urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate additional funds for VPSO wage increases to be brought to an equitable level so as to improve the provision of rural public safety in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Tom Gray
Mayor
City of White Mountain

cc; Kawerak Inc.

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 3/15/01

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4-12-01

Judiciary Committee considered **SENATE BILL NO. 145**
VILLAGE PUB.SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM

"An Act relating to the expansion of the village public safety officer program to include the provision of probation and parole supervision services, and to retirement benefits for village public safety officers."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SB 145 (JUD)
FORTHCOMING
- adopt previous CS (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

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

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
DOA	4/10/01		✓	3
DOC	4/02/01	✓		2
DOPS	4/10/01	✓		1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

L10 Fax (465) 2864 Teleconference Order No

L10 STAFF USE

7346

SPONSOR'S NAME
SFIV

CHAIRING SITE LOCATION
JUNEAU

DATE
Thurs 4/19/01

STAFF CONTACT
MINDY

CHAIRPERSON
DONLEY/KELLY

START/END TIME
9-11 am

CONTACT TELEPHONE
4935

BILL NO TITLE/SUBJECT
SB 181

JUNEAU ROOM
532

CONTACT E-MAIL

SB 145

HB 81

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SITES

ANCHORAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FAIRBANKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KODIAK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SITKA
BARROW		GLENNALLEN		KOTZEBUE		TOK
BETHEL		HOMER		MAT-SU		VALDEZ
CORDOVA		JUNEAU		NOME		WRANGELL
DELTA-J		KENAI		PETERSBURG		
DILLINGHAM		KETCHIKAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SEWARD		CHANGES

OFF-NET/VTS SITES
LOCATION/CONTACT NAME/TELEPHONE

Dr. Rob Robinson	AK Dental Society	Arizona
Robin Lown	VPSO	Craig
Max Angeman	Kwethluk	SB 181

TESTIMONY TAKEN
YES NO

INVITATION ONLY
YES NO

TIME LIMIT
YES NO TIME LIMIT ?

FOR LTN STAFF USE ONLY

BRIDGE INFORMATION

DIRECT DIAL	
PORTS REQUESTED	
PORTS FILLED	
INCREASE PORTS	
BRIDGE TELEPHONE	
TOLL FREE NUMBER	

TELECONFERENCE TYPE

LEGISLATIVE	PUBLIC HEARING
NON-LEG	WORK SESSION
LAA	ADMIN
SPONSORED	CONSTITUENT

ADMINISTRATION

ORDER TAKEN BY	
DATE	
TIME	

NOTES
OTHER SITES MAY ADD YES NO

SITE: Fairbanks LIO

COMMITTEE (S) FINANCE

DATE: 4/19/01

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB 145

UPDATE #: 1



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT

TO TESTIFY?

Y OR N

NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y OR N
JIM KNOPKE	AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE	Y

SITE: NOME LIO

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance Committee

DATE: April 19, 2001

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Senate Bill 181 - Small Community
Housing Loans

Senate Bill 145 - VPSO Program

House Bill 81 - Dentists/Dental
Hygienists & Assistants

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Josie Stiles		Kawerak, Inc. VPSO Program	Yes - SB 145

SITE: DILLINGHAM LIO
COMMITTEE: SB145
 SENATE FINANCE
DATE: 4-19-01

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 SB145
UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT:

SB145 NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
 TO TESTIFY?
 Y OR N

NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y OR N
✓ BRAD ANGLAW	PO Box 310 IGA AK 99576	YSBNA	Y

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

SB 145 - VILLAGE PUB.SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM

NAME: Ken Bischoff Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Public Safety Phone: 465-5488
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? ___Yes ___No Respond To Questions

NAME: Doug Norris Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Public Safety - Major Phone: 269-5697
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? ___Yes ___No Respond To Questions

NAME: Guy Bell Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Retirement's Benefits - Director Phone: 465-4471
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes ___No ___Respond To Questions

NAME: Dwayne Peoples Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Dept. Corrections Phone: 465-339
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? ___Yes ___No Respond To Questions ; F-Note



~~ANCHORAGE~~ LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SIGN-IN SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

SPONSOR: Justice Linares
SUBJECT: SA 181 / SA 145 / HB 81
START/END TIME: 9:00 DATE: 4-19

	Name/Representing	Address	Zip	Phone No.	Testify	Observe	Bill No.
1.	Scott Devereaux - AK Mortgages	1400 W Benson Blvd #200	99513	222-885	X		SB 141
2.	BANKERS ASSOCIATION						
3.	Richard Krause	201 E 3A	99502	276-2700	NO		SB 141
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							

P. 02/02

SITE: Fairbanks LIO

COMMITTEE (S) FINANCE

DATE: 4/19/01

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB 145

UPDATE #: 1



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

JIM KNOPKE	AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE	Y

FAX NO. 9074563346

FBX LEGIS INFORMATION

APR-19-01 THU 09:23 AM

SITE: NOME LIO

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance Committee

DATE: April 19, 2001

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Senate Bill 181 - Small Community
Housing Loans

Senate Bill 145 - VPSO Program

House Bill 81 - Dentists/Dental

Hygienists & Assistants

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Jessie Stiles		Kawerak, Inc. VPSO Program	Yes - SB 145

SITE: DILLINGHAM LIO
COMMITTEE: SB145
 SENATE FINANCE
DATE: 4-19-01

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 SB145
UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT: SB145 NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N
BRIAN ANGLAN	PO Box 310 ILEAK AK 99576	YSBNA	Y

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

SB 145 - VILLAGE PUB.SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM

NAME: Doug Norri's Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Major / Alaska State Troopers Phone: 269-5641
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

Bill History/Action Display



BILL: SB 145

SHORT TITLE: VILLAGE PUB. SAFETY OFFICER
PROGRAM

BILL VERSION:

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) HALFORD, Ward, Lincoln, Olson,
Austerman, Hoffman

CURRENT STATUS: (S) FIN

STATUS DATE: 04/12/01

TITLE: "An Act relating to the expansion of the village public safety officer program to include the provision of probation and parole supervision services, and to retirement benefits for village public safety officers."

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
03/15/01	<u>0675</u>	(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/15/01	<u>0675</u>	(S) JUD, FIN
03/26/01	<u>Text</u>	(S) JUD AT 2:00 PM BELTZ 211
03/26/01	<u>Text</u>	(S) Scheduled But Not Heard
03/26/01	<u>Text</u>	(S) MINUTE(JUD)
04/11/01	<u>Text</u>	(S) JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 211
04/11/01	<u>Text</u>	(S) Moved CS(JUD) Out of Committee -- Meeting Postponed to 2:50 pm--
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) JUD RPT CS 3DP NEW TITLE
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) DP: TAYLOR, THERRIAULT, COWDERY
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) FN1: (DPS)
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) FN2: (COR)
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) FN3: ZERO(ADM)
04/12/01	<u>1093</u>	(S) REFERRED TO FINANCE

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match

CORRECTIONS

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

PUBLIC SAFETY

RETIREMENT

UNORGANIZED BOROUGH

Bill Root:

BASIS HAS BEEN RE-PROGRAMMED THIS YEAR



TO REPORT PROBLEMS WITH BASIS INQUIRY

Return to Basis Main Menu (22 Legislature)

SB

147

SFIN

FILE

SB 147

was referred to the
Senate Finance
Committee

No hearing was held
on this bill

SB

148

SFIN

FILE

SB 148

was referred to the
Senate Finance
Committee

Hearing(s) were held

The bill did not move
from Committee

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Senator John Torgerson, Chair
Senator Drue Pearce, Vice Chair
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

STATE CAPITOL, Room 427
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4907
FAX: (907) 465-4779

35477 Kenai Spur Hwy.
Suite 101B
Soldotna, Ak 99669
Phone: (907) 260-3041
Fax: (907) 260-3044

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 148

"Remote Water Storage for Fire Departments"

SB 148 instructs the Department of Natural Resources to construct remote water storage sites for fire protection. These sites will consist of 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks with a pump and a hydrant. DNR will solicit applications for these remote storage tanks from all the organized fire service areas statewide. Then the department will rank the applications and, based upon appropriations, construct as many as they can afford. The applications will be ranked by the following factors:

- Distance from an adequate water supply;
- Number of buildings to be protected;
- Extent of spruce bark beetle infestation;
- Ability of fire service to provide matching funds, maintain and operate the remote water storage site; and
- Other pertinent factors.

The need for remote water storage sites is evident in many areas of the state, especially in areas where beetle infested timber greatly increases the risk of catastrophic wildfire. This legislation will help protect the lives of those people living on the fringe of fire service areas. It will also reduce property loss and possibly lower ISO rates for our residents.

CENTRAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
Central Kenai Peninsula Fire & EMS Providers
231 SOUTH BINKLEY
SOLDOTNA, AK 99869-8084
907-262-4792 • Fax 907-262-5770



*"Prepared for the Worst,
Providing the Best"*

**TESTIMONY ON SB 148
REMOTE WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

My name is Len Malmquist and I am the Fire Chief for Central Emergency Services in Soldotna. In addition, I am the Secretary/Treasurer for the Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association. The Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs has members in every fire department on the Kenai Peninsula.

SB 148 is a bill of special interest to all fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula. The bill would assist fire departments in establishing water supply sources in areas of need without other proven water sources. Half of the membership of the Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association represents small volunteer fire departments with very little financial resources that could be used to develop water supply sources. This bill is especially important to these departments. Specifically, the bill would provide vital assistance to Anchor Point Fire Service Area, Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Department, Funny River Volunteer Fire Department, and Cooper Landing Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula are not the only departments that have a problem in establishing water sources to be used for emergency firefighting. This is a statewide problem that could be addressed over a period of years if this bill were enacted and funded in future years. Such water sources could also be used by the Division of Forestry for Wildland fire fighting should the need arise.

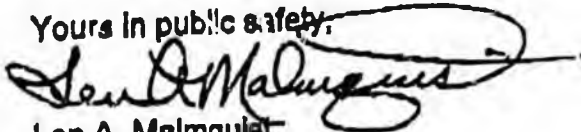
Adequate water supply is a criteria that is used when insurance companies rate a structure for insurance purposes. Passage of this bill may allow some property owners to obtain insurance that they have been unable to purchase due to a lack of water supply. Depending upon location, the water supply source may also assist in lowering insurance rates for some other property owners.

Central Emergency Services has included "rural water supply sources" in the legislative priority list to the Kenai Peninsula Borough every year for the past three years. We have several areas of need within our 2,200 square mile service area that would benefit from SB 148.

No fire department can extinguish fires without water. The more water sources that a department has available to them, the better they can provide firefighting services. SB 148 can only help the citizens of Alaska by assisting with the installation of additional water supply sources to be used for firefighting. I urge your support for SB 148.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please call me at 282-4792.

Yours in public safety,



Len A. Malmquist
Fire Chief

M

**Kachemak Emergency Service Area
Kenai Peninsula Borough Annex
P.O. Box 1849
Homer, AK 99603**

March 10, 2001

Senator John Torgerson
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson,

Ric Plate, Kenai/Kodiak area fire management officer for the Division of Forestry, recently told us that you may promote a statewide program to improve fixed water supplies for fire suppression. We enthusiastically encourage you to do so. One of the big hurdles we face in developing our operating plan is locating sufficient accessible water in the outer reaches of our service area. We will soon ask Nikiski fire chief Billy Harris to meet with our board to share his great expertise in water supply systems. Once we have a plan, we will need funding, which is why we are very interested in your proposal.

If you have any questions about Kachemak Emergency Service Area or our significant and varied funding needs, please give me a call at 235-3725.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Griswold

Mary Griswold
Board member

March 31, 2001

Senate Resources Committee
State Capital
Juneau AK 99801

Chairman Senator John Torgerson

I was prepared to testify on SB 148
"Remote Water Storage for Fire Departments"
on March 30, 2001, but since that hearing
was cancelled, I am submitting the following
written comments.

I am a member of the building committee
for the Funny River Emergency Services. And
we have started to develop fire station
facilities for our area. We have 4.7 acres
have started to establish a gravel pad
building site. We have a water well
drill pump installed with power source
and a water supply in operation. We
are buried (2) 10000 gallon still water
tanks for fire recovery relief of
tankers to fight fires in our area.
All of these improvement are paid
for through personal support by volunteers
work by our over 400 members.

We intend to install pumps

31874 Moonshine Dr
Soldotna AK 99662
Mick Boudreau

Phone 262-0818

Thank for your consideration

The legislature support of our areas
of force. We will build this much needed
facility but will give responsible assistance
we can accomplish it much sooner and may be
not much later.

We are seeking grants from both
the public and private sector.
We are seeking additional support
of other areas needing and back up of
medical emergency and respond to local
colleagues who have an abundance with trained
approximate 400 members info. are active
No have a committed membership of

use this summer.
complete this much need facility for
legislation in the funding needed to
will be available thru this proposed
He will appreciate any help that
from in the Finny river area.
of the pipe we scrounged we hope
a rapid fast refill station for fighting
in each of the tanks and with some

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 3/16/01

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/29/01
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/2/01

Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 148

"An Act relating to remove water storage for fire departments."

and recommends:

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

Senate Bill:

same title

new title

House Bill:

same title

technical title

new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
Natural Resources	3/29/01	✓		1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>John L. Taylor</i>	✓			
<i>Irue Davis</i>	✓			
<i>Peter [unclear]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

SB

149

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: April 28, 2001

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5/3/01

The **FINANCE** Committee considered:

CSSSSB 149(HES)

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 149(HES)

TEACHER INCENTIVES

"An Act relating to reemployment of retired teachers, to eligibility for major medical insurance coverage for beneficiaries of the teachers' retirement system, and to teacher certificates; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with H CS CSSSSB 149 (FIN) Same Title New Title
For Senate Bills with new title: Technical Title New Title: HCR _____

- attach amendments
- add new referral to _____ Committee
- Letter of Intent _____ Committee

- List of Abbrev. For Depts.:
- ADM
 - CED
 - COR
 - CRT
 - EED
 - DEC
 - DFG
 - GOV
 - HSS
 - LAA
 - LAW
 - LWF
 - MVA
 - DNR
 - DPS
 - REV
 - DOT
 - UA

NEW FISCAL NOTES				
*For Chief Clerk's Office Use Only				
FN# *	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES				
List by Dept(s):	FN #	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
DDA	1	✓		
DOE	2			✓

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
[Signature]	Biende	✓			
[Signature]	Whitaker	✓			
[Signature]	HARRIS	✓			
[Signature]	CRAFT	✓			
[Signature]	DANNIS	✓			
[Signature]	MASES	✓			
[Signature]	Lucasford	✓			
[Signature]	Hudson	✓			
[Signature]	Foster	X			
Chair: [Signature]					
Chair: [Signature]	Mulder	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SSSB 149(FIN)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/24/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act relating to employment incentives
for teachers and health care providers, to reemployment..." BRU: Centralized Admin. Services
 Sponsor: Senator Leman Component: Retirement & Benefits
 Requester: Senate HESS Component Number: 64

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	50.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	50.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Teachers' Ret 1034)	50.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
TOTAL	50.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

\$50.0 will be needed in the first year for the development and distribution of enrollment, educational, informational material, and for systems programming. We estimate \$20.0 will be necessary in succeeding years. See page 2 for additional analysis.

Prepared by: Guy Bell, Director Phone 465-4471
 Division: Retirement and Benefits Date/Time 03/30/01
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 03/30/01
 Agency: Department of Administration

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

This legislation amends the Teachers' Retirement System statute to address employee retention.

1. Retiree Return Incentive—brings retirees back into the workforce. This proposal has no fiscal impact.

This retiree return incentive removes a disincentive for retirees to return to full time employment. Currently, a retiree who wishes to return to permanent public employment must forego retirement benefit payments during their period of return. The proposed change would, in the event of a declared teacher shortage, allow a retiree to elect to continue receiving benefit payments after returning to full-time teaching. To keep this proposal cost-neutral, the employee would not accrue additional retirement credit during the period of return.

2. Improvements to TRS Tier II medical benefits:

- Add full system paid retiree medical benefits at age 60 and minimum service of 8 years.
- Add full system paid medical benefits for Tier II members upon reaching 25 years of service.

The fiscal impact associated with this change would be 0.17% of annual payroll each year. The total value of Alaska teacher salaries is approximately \$470 million. The annual cost of this increase to TRS employers would therefore be approximately \$800.0. Given that there are approximately 9,300 active teachers, this equates to an annual cost of about \$86.00 per teacher.

We believe this change would make a significant difference in employee retention. Teachers can retire after 20 years. A 45 year old school teacher with 20 years service can retire and pursue a second career and they often do because there is a disincentive for them to continue to work for the system. With this enhancement to the Tier II and III plans, we believe more of these individuals would stay the additional five years to qualify for system-paid medical coverage.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSSSSB 149(HES)
(S) Publish Date: 4/24/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
Title: An Act relating to reemployment of retired BRU: Teaching & Learning Support
teachers. to eligibility for major medical insurance coverage . . . Component: Quality Schools
Sponsor: Senator Lemar
Requester: S HESS Component Number: 2147

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
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						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill contains many provisions for re-employing retired teachers, recognizing certificates of out-of-state teachers in the same areas of endorsement, and granting preliminary teacher certificates to those who meet the requirements in Section 3. This bill allows school districts to employ retired teachers because of shortages.

In Section 8, please note that teachers hired under Tier II of TRS would receive a major medical benefit provided they continue teaching for a minimum of 25 years. Additional costs for the employer would, according to estimates by TRS, amount to approximately \$60 per year, per eligible teacher. These increased annual costs wouldn't start for several years and are considered small compared to the opportunity to retain these qualified teachers.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson, Deputy Director Phone 465-8727
Division: Teaching & Learning Support Date/Time 4/23/01 12:00 AM
Approved by: Bruce Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Education Date 4/23/01
Agency: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

22-LS0769\W
Cramer
5/1/01

adopted N/O

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 149()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS LEMAN, Davis

REPRESENTATIVES Wilson, Stevens, Dyson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to reemployment of retired teachers, to eligibility for major medical
2 insurance coverage for beneficiaries of the teachers' retirement system, and to teacher
3 certificates; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * Section 1. AS 14.20.010 is amended to read:

6 Sec. 14.20.010. **Teacher certificate required.** A person may not be
7 employed as a teacher in the public schools of the state unless that person possesses a
8 valid teacher certificate except that a person who has made application to the
9 department for a teacher certificate, including a preliminary teacher certificate
10 under AS 14.20.015, or renewal of a teacher certificate that has not been acted upon
11 by the department may be employed as a teacher in the public schools of the state until
12 the department has taken action on the application, but in no case may employment
13 without a certificate last longer than three months.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

1 **Sec. 14.20.015. Recognition of certificates of out-of-state teachers.** (a) The
2 department shall issue a preliminary teacher certificate to an out-of-state teacher who
3 meets the requirements of this section. To be eligible for a preliminary teacher
4 certificate, a person shall

5 (1) have received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of
6 higher education accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or
7 approved by the commissioner;

8 (2) hold a valid teacher certificate issued by another state;

9 (3) have submitted fingerprints to the department to be used for a
10 criminal history background check and been found by the department to be suitable for
11 employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f);

12 (4) have paid the fee required by the department under
13 AS 14.20.020(c).

14 (b) An out-of-state teacher who has been issued a preliminary teacher
15 certificate under this section shall pass the competency examination designated by the
16 board under AS 14.20.020(i) within one year after the date the preliminary teacher
17 certificate was issued. If the teacher does not pass the examination, the department
18 shall immediately revoke the teacher's preliminary teacher certificate.

19 (c) The preliminary teacher certificate issued under this section must contain
20 the same endorsements as those on the current valid teacher certificate issued by the
21 other state.

22 (d) A teacher holding a preliminary teacher certificate issued under this
23 section may be employed to provide instructional services for a school district or
24 regional educational attendance area only if the teacher certificate issued by the other
25 state is valid at the time the teacher commences to provide instructional services for
26 the school district or regional educational attendance area.

27 (e) Employment under a preliminary teacher certificate shall be considered in
28 determining whether a teacher qualifies for tenure under AS 14.20.150. However, a
29 teacher may not be granted tenure unless the teacher holds a teacher certificate issued
30 under AS 14.20.020.

31 (f) A preliminary teacher certificate and any endorsements issued under this

1 section are valid for three years and may not be renewed. The department may not
2 issue a provisional certificate or a temporary certificate to a teacher who has held a
3 preliminary teacher certificate.

4 **Sec. 14.20.017. Grace period for issuance of regular teacher certificates to**
5 **previously certificated teachers.** (a) The department shall issue a teacher certificate
6 as described in AS 14.20.020, subject to revocation, to a teacher who meets the
7 requirements of this section. To be eligible for a revocable teacher certificate under
8 this section, a person shall

9 (1) have held a valid teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.020 that
10 expired more than 12 months before the teacher applied for a certificate under this
11 section;

12 (2) have paid the fee required by the department under
13 AS 14.20.020(c).

14 (b) A revocable teacher certificate issued under this section is valid for one
15 year, during which the teacher shall complete any requirements for the issuance of a
16 regular teacher certificate under AS 14.20.020 that the teacher has not already met.
17 The department shall expedite the procedures required of teachers holding revocable
18 teacher certificates who are seeking certification under AS 14.20.020.

19 (c) A teacher holding a revocable teacher certificate under this section who
20 previously passed the competency examination designated by the board under
21 AS 14.20.020(i) is not required to retake the examination before being eligible for a
22 regular certificate under AS 14.20.020. A teacher holding a revocable teacher
23 certificate who did not previously take or pass the competency examination shall take
24 and pass the examination within one year after the date the revocable teacher
25 certificate was issued. If the teacher does not pass the examination, the department
26 shall immediately revoke the revocable teacher certificate.

27 (d) A teacher holding a revocable teacher certificate under this section may
28 not receive a teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.020 until the teacher submits
29 fingerprints to the department to be used for a criminal history background check and
30 the teacher has been found by the department to be suitable for employment as a
31 teacher under AS 14.20.020(f).

1 (e) The revocable teacher certificate issued under this section must contain the
2 same endorsements as those on the teacher's expired teacher certificate.

3 (f) Employment on the basis of a revocable teacher certificate issued under
4 this section shall be considered in determining whether a teacher qualifies for tenure
5 under AS 14.20.150.

6 (g) A revocable teacher certificate and any endorsements issued under this
7 section are valid for one year and may not be renewed under this section. The
8 department may not issue a provisional certificate or a temporary certificate to a
9 teacher who has held a teacher certificate issued under this section.

10 * Sec. 3. AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 **Sec. 14.20.135. Employment of retired teachers because of shortages.** (a)
12 A school district or regional educational attendance area that has or anticipates having
13 a shortage of teachers qualified to teach in a particular discipline or specialty may, by
14 resolution, adopt a policy that permits the employment of retired teachers who are
15 qualified to teach in the discipline or specialty in accordance with this section. The
16 policy must describe the circumstances that constitute the shortage. If a shortage of
17 teachers exists as described in the policy, the district or attendance area shall notify the
18 administrator of the teachers' retirement system (AS 14.25) that it is hiring retired
19 teachers under this section.

20 (b) A teacher who retired under AS 14.25.110(a) and is subsequently
21 reemployed under this section may, within 30 days after the date of reemployment,
22 elect to continue receiving retirement benefit payments under AS 14.25 during the
23 period of reemployment by filing a waiver of coverage as set out in AS 14.25.043(b).

24 (c) A school district or regional educational attendance area may not employ a
25 teacher, principal, or administrator who participated in a retirement incentive program
26 under ch. 26, SLA 1986, ch. 89, SLA 1989, ch. 65, SLA 1996, ch. 4, FSSLA 1996, or
27 ch. 92, SLA 1997, under this section.

28 (d) A retired teacher employed under this section is not eligible to acquire,
29 maintain, or reacquire tenure under AS 14.20.150.

30 * Sec. 4. AS 14.25.040(a) is amended to read:

31 (a) Unless a teacher or member has elected to participate in the optional

1 university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 - 14.40.799 or has filed an
2 election under AS 14.25.043(b), a teacher or member contracting for service with a
3 participating employer is subject to this chapter.

4 * Sec. 5. AS 14.25.040(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Unless a teacher or member has elected to participate in the optional
6 university retirement program under AS 14.40.661 - 14.40.799 [OR HAS FILED AN
7 ELECTION UNDER AS 14.25.043(b)], a teacher or member contracting for service
8 with a participating employer is subject to this chapter.

9 * Sec. 6. AS 14.25.043 is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 14.25.043. Reemployment of retired members.** (a) If a retired member
11 again becomes an active member, benefit payments may not be made during the
12 period of reemployment unless the teacher makes an election under (b) of this
13 section. The retirement benefit must be suspended for the entire school year if the
14 teacher is reemployed as an active teacher for a period equivalent to a year of service.
15 During the period of reemployment, the member is subject to AS 14.25.050 and
16 deductions from the member's salary will be made in accordance with AS 14.25.050.

17 (b) A school district or regional educational attendance area that has
18 adopted a policy that permits the employment of retired teachers in accordance
19 with AS 14.20.135 shall notify the administrator that it is hiring retired teachers
20 under AS 14.20.135. A teacher who retired under AS 14.25.110(a) and
21 subsequently becomes an active member under a policy adopted in accordance
22 with AS 14.20.135 may, within 30 days of the date of reemployment, elect to
23 continue receiving benefit payments during the period of reemployment by filing
24 a waiver of coverage with the administrator on a form provided by the
25 administrator. An election under this subsection waives coverage for the period
26 of reemployment and is irrevocable during the period of reemployment.
27 Deductions from the member's salary may not be made under AS 14.25.050
28 during the period of reemployment, and the member may not receive credited
29 service for the period of reemployment. A member who participated in a
30 retirement incentive program under ch. 26, SLA 1986, ch. 89, SLA 1989, ch. 65,
31 SLA 1996, ch. 4, FSSLA 1996, or ch. 92, SLA 1997, is not eligible to make an

1 **election under this subsection.**

2 (c) Upon subsequent retirement, the retired member is entitled to receive an
3 additional benefit based on the credited service and the average base salary during the
4 period of reemployment in accordance with AS 14.25.110. If the initial benefit
5 payments to which the retired member is eligible have been actuarially reduced
6 because the member retired early under AS 14.25.110(b), the member shall also
7 receive an incremental benefit based on the amount of the actuarial reduction imposed
8 by AS 14.25.110(j) on the first benefit and the length of time that the employee was
9 reemployed and not receiving retirement benefits. The amount of the incremental
10 benefit is equal to the difference between the normal retirement benefit to which the
11 member would have been entitled had the member taken a normal retirement and the
12 early retirement benefit that the member has been receiving based on the member's
13 initial period of employment multiplied by the total number of months that the
14 member did not receive retirement benefits because of reemployment and that amount
15 actuarially adjusted to be paid over the expected lifetime of the member.

16 * Sec. 7. AS 14.25.043(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) If a retired member again becomes an active member, benefit payments
18 may not be made during the period of reemployment [UNLESS THE TEACHER
19 MAKES AN ELECTION UNDER (b) OF THIS SECTION]. The retirement benefit
20 must be suspended for the entire school year if the teacher is reemployed as an active
21 teacher for a period equivalent to a year of service. During the period of
22 reemployment, [THE MEMBER IS SUBJECT TO AS 14.25.050 AND] deductions
23 from the member's salary will be made in accordance with AS 14.25.050.

24 * Sec. 8. AS 14.25.168(d) is amended to read.

25 (d) A benefit recipient may elect major medical insurance coverage in
26 accordance with regulations and under the following conditions:

27 (1) a person who has less than 25 years of membership service and
28 who is younger than 60 years of age must pay an amount equal to the full monthly
29 group premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage:

30 (2) [A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST 60 YEARS OF AGE BUT IS
31 YOUNGER THAN 65 YEARS OF AGE MUST PAY AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO

1 ONE-HALF OF THE FULL MONTHLY GROUP PREMIUM FOR RETIREE
2 MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE;

3 (3)] a disabled member, a disabled member who is appointed to
4 normal retirement, [OR] a person 60 [65] years of age or older, or a person who has
5 at least 25 years of membership service is not required to make premium payments.

6 * Sec. 9. AS 14.20.135 and AS 14.25.043(b) are repealed July 1, 2005.

7 * Sec. 10. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
8 read:

9 REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Annually, beginning in 200? and ending in 2006, the
10 administrator of the teachers' retirement system shall report to the legislature by the 30th day
11 of the regular legislative session concerning the effect of this Act on the retirement system.

12 * Sec. 11. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 REGULATIONS FOR RETIRED TEACHERS. Notwithstanding sec. 14 of this Act,
15 the Alaska Teachers' Retirement Board may immediately proceed to adopt regulations
16 necessary to implement changes made by secs. 4, 6, and 8 of this Act. The regulations take
17 effect under AS 14.25.022, but not before July 1, 2001.

18 * Sec. 12. Section 11 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

19 * Sec. 13. Sections 5, 7, and 9 of this Act take effect July 1, 2005.

20 * Sec. 14. Except as provided in secs. 12 and 13 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1,
21 2001.

During Session, January - May:
State Capitol, Room 113
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2095
465-3810 fax



During Interim, June - December:
710 W. 4th Ave., Suite 320
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 269-0240
269-0242 fax

Senator Loren Leman

Sponsor Statement - House CS for CS for SSSB 149(HES): TEACHER INCENTIVES

“An Act relating to reemployment of retired teachers, to eligibility for major medical insurance coverage for beneficiaries of the teachers’ retirement system, and to teacher certificates; and providing for an effective date.”

SB 149 responds to Alaska’s current teacher shortage. It establishes a multi-pronged approach to increase and retain personnel in this critical staffing area.

To increase the teacher supply in Alaska, SB 149 creates a new teacher certification that will allow the State to recognize the credentials of teachers certified out-of-state. The “preliminary teacher certificate” will include the same endorsements as those on a teacher’s current, valid certificate issued out-of-state.

SB 149 also eases recertification requirements for teachers previously certified in Alaska through the creation of a transitional teaching certificate. This certificate will be valid for one year during which the teacher shall complete requirements for the issuance of a regular teacher certificate.

SB 149 promotes employment of retired teachers through the creation of a retirement benefits election option. Under election, retired members continue to receive benefit payments upon reemployment, but do not accrue additional years of service or additional benefits. If no election is made, upon reemployment retired members have their benefit payments suspended, but additional years of service continue to accrue. The election option will be available for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2001, and ending July 1, 2005.

SB 149 promotes teacher retention by improving coverage and easing qualifications to receive major medical benefits. Under SB 149 a teacher can qualify for 100% medical coverage by: years of service (25 years), age (60 instead of 65), or if disabled and appointed to normal retirement.

Staff contact: Paul Roetman 465-3712
Last updated: May 1, 2001



Senator Loren Leman

Sectional Analysis – House CS for CS for SSSB 149(HES): TEACHER INCENTIVES

“An Act relating to reemployment of retired teachers, to eligibility for major medical insurance coverage for beneficiaries of the teachers’ retirement system, and to teacher certificates; and providing for an effective date.”

The following is a sectional analysis of House CS for CS for Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 149 (draft #22-LS0769\W) which proposes several amendments to Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums), Chapter 20 (Teachers and School Personnel) and Chapter 25 (Teachers Retirement).

Section 1. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 20 (Teachers and School Personnel) Section 10 (Teacher certificate required) by adding a new teacher certification allowing a person from out-of-state to be employed in Alaska as a teacher in a public school under a “preliminary teacher certificate” created under section 2.

Section 2. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 20 (Teachers and School Personnel) Section 15 (Recognition of out-of-state teachers) that lists the requirements under which teachers certified out-of-state may have their credentials recognized in Alaska.

Once an out-of-state teacher has been issued a preliminary teacher certificate, he/she is required to pass a competency examination within one year from the date the preliminary teaching certificate was issued. A preliminary teacher certificate is issued by the department with the same endorsements as those on the current, valid certificate issued by the other state.

Tenure may not be granted to a teacher employed under a preliminary teacher certificate. A preliminary teacher certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable.

Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 20 (Teachers and School Personnel) by creating Section 17 (Grace period for issuance of regular teacher certificates to previously certificated teachers) that allows teachers whose certification has lapsed to return to the classroom through a revocable teaching certificate. The certificate is valid for one year during which the teacher shall complete any requirements for the issuance of a regular teacher certificate that the teacher has not already met. The certificate will contain the same endorsements as those on the teacher’s previous teaching certificate.

Section 3. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 20 (Teachers and School Personnel) by creating Section 135 (Employment of retired teachers because of shortages), specifying that a school district having or anticipating a shortage of teachers may by resolution adopt a policy that permits the employment of retired teachers.

Retired members have 30 days from the date of reemployment to elect to continue receiving retirement benefits. If election is made, no deductions will be made from the reemployed member's salary and no credit service will be given for the period of reemployment.

A teacher, principal, or administrator who participated in a retirement incentive program (RIP) under 1986, 1989, 1996 or 1997 is not eligible to make an election under this section.

Section 4. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 25 (Teachers Retirement) Section 40 (Membership) by creating an election option, specified in section 6, exempting a retired member from Chapter 25.

Section 5. Repeals the election provision referenced in AS 14.25.040(a), on July 1, 2005.

Section 6. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 25 (Teachers Retirement) Section 43 (Reemployment of retired members) by providing an incentive for a retired teacher to return to full time teaching for a TRS employer. With this change, a retired teacher who took normal retirement may elect a new option under (b) of this section when reemployed. The new option:

- Is subject to a declaration or shortage by a school district;
- Allows the teacher to elect continuation of retirement benefit payments during reemployment;
- Would stop additional retirement benefit accrual;
- Must be selected within 30 days of reemployment; and
- Is not available to RIP participants

If no election is made, the current method would apply and the teacher would:

- Stop receiving a retirement benefit during reemployment; and
- Accrue additional retirement benefit during period of reemployment

Section 7. Repeals the election provision referenced in AS 14.25.043(a), on July 1, 2005.

Section 8. Amends Title 14 (Education, Libraries, and Museums) Chapter 25 (Teachers Retirement) Section 168 (Medical Benefits) by improving medical coverage benefits. Currently, Tier II retirees are eligible for 50 percent coverage once they reach age 60. No benefit accrues for years of service.

Under this section, a teacher who stays five years beyond the normal retirement service requirement of twenty years or who is 60 years old, will be eligible for full system paid medical coverage.

Section 9. Repeals the election provisions of section 3 and section 6 on July 1, 2005.

Section 10. Requires the administrator of the teachers' retirement system to give an annual report to the Legislature detailing the effect of this Act on the retirement system.

Section 11. Authorizes the Alaska Teachers' Retirement Board to adopt regulations necessary to implement changes made by sections 4, 6, and 8 of this Act.

Section 12. Specifies that Section 11 takes effect immediately upon signing by the governor.

Section 13. Specifies that Sections 5, 7, and 9 take effect July 1, 2005.

Section 14. Specifies that this Act, with the exception of sections 12 and 13, takes effect July 1, 2001.

Staff contact: Paul Roetman 465-3712
Last updated: May 1, 2001