

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10440 HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

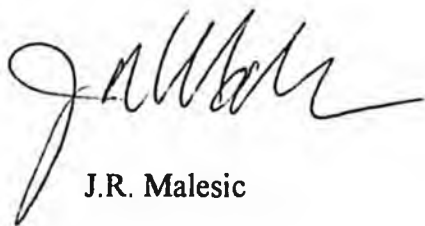
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Malesic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

J.R. Malesic

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

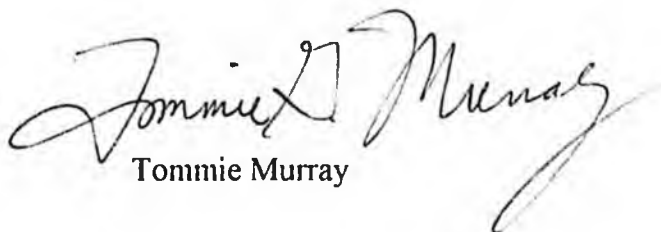
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Unit Leader at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which is passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Tommie Murray

01/21/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Craig Davisson
Youth Counselor III
McLaughlin Youth Center
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



January 21, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Shane Aubrey
1914 Terrebonne Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

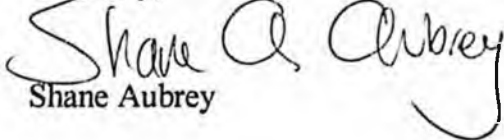
Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Shane Aubrey and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Shane Aubrey

Date: January 19, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
478 Carlton Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. The association is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has, for more than 10-years pursued fairness and equafinality with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nello Cooper Jr., YCII



January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Claudia Krupa
7641 Old Harbor Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I have recently become concerned about the fate of HB 248 and the status of Youth Counselor's retirement opportunities. I work as a Youth Counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center and can identify with the nature and complexity of working with juvenile offenders and the risks that are posed in this arena.

We are one of the only groups of state employees who do not have access to a 20 year retirement and work just as hard and are subject to the same hazards as other groups of state employees. It is only fair that in turn, we receive the same benefits.

I appreciate your concern on our behalf and I am grateful for your ability to make this bill move. As such, I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Claudia V. Krupa

January 24, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

KEITH MEISTRELL

Keith Meistrell
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

1/20/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

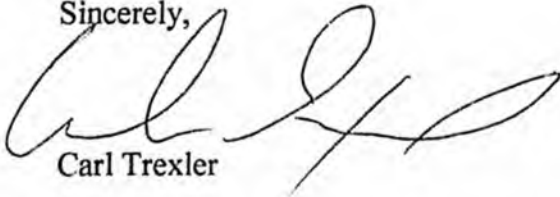
Carl Trexler
Youth Counselor II
PO Box 772924
Eagle River
Ak, 99577

Dear Sir,

I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice at the McLaughlin Youth Facility. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Carl Trexler

01-30-2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Harry Goodnight
Youth Counselor
16212 Berthod Way
Eagle River AK. 99577

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Harry Goodnight

Thanks, [Signature]

It is my understanding that you are on the House State Affairs Committee. Please House Bill 248 is in your committee. Please pass this legislation out of your committee as a sign of your support. I have worked as a youth counselor for about 13 years and we need a 20 year reform. It would be best for the residents and the staff.

Dear Rep. Coghill;

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK
99801-1182

Suzie Kuntz
P.O. B. 85231
FBKS, AK
99708

I-2802

Support for HB 248

A synopsis of the hazards encountered by employees of juvenile detention and correctional institutions.

Following are a few examples from facilities around the state that are representative of the situations that youth counselors must be prepared to encounter and respond to on a daily basis.

- A small bomb was detonated outside of a McLaughlin Youth Center Detention window in an attempt to break out an incarcerated resident.
- A young man detained at the Bethel Youth Facility assaulted a detention youth counselor, stabbing him in the back with a pencil, fracturing his jaw and resulting in a partial hearing loss.
- Using a strip of cloth torn from a towel, a detained youth at the McLaughlin Youth Center attacked a youth counselor by wrapping the fabric around her neck and strangling her. He forced her into his cell and down on to his bed, and tried to get her keys away from her. The attack was interrupted and likely serious injury averted when another youth counselor saw what was happening and intervened.
- Fairbanks community youth attempted to gain entry into the Fairbanks Youth Facility with a blow torch to free a youth who was being held in that facility.
- As a consequence of a drive-by shooting on the campus of the McLaughlin Youth Center, a wall was erected to obstruct the view from Providence Drive.
- Two Nome Youth Facility staff had to physically restrain a youth who was intoxicated, combative, suicidal, and seven months pregnant.
- While escorting a youth from the McLaughlin Youth Center, a youth counselor was ambushed and attacked by a relative of the youth, armed with mace and a samurai sword, who then sprayed the youth counselor with mace and assisted the youth in escaping from custody.
- While physically restraining an out-of-control youth at the Bethel Youth Facility, the youth defecated in her pants, thus exposing the staff members involved to any number of potential infectious agents.
- A 300 pound male resident detained at Johnson Youth Center assaulted staff in an attempt to obtain keys and escape from the facility. The assault resulted in emergency room care, facial contusions, and dental injury.
- During a secure transport of two detained juveniles from the Court House in Palmer, a Mat-Su Youth Facility youth counselor was attacked, choked, and overpowered by the youths, who eventually escaped.
- During the restraint of an out of control 220 pound resident, two McLaughlin Youth Center staff were assaulted. The staff were kicked in the stomach, struck in the head and face, and spit upon by the youth. This resident had Hepatitis C.

During the course of their duties, youth counselors must intervene in fights between residents, they face the risk of being assaulted themselves, and they must endure threats to their well-being and that of their families. Facility staff have experienced the trauma of a resident death by suicide or serious injury by suicide attempt. Youth Counselors routinely transport youth in the community and from one city to another, exposing themselves and the residents to all the potential risks that presents. The youth in our facilities are at high risk for a variety of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, and TB, and facility staff face exposure to blood, saliva, and other body fluids. Also significant, but less easily defined, is the unpredictable nature of these potential assaults and exposures. Facility staff must be constantly vigilant to this impulsive and potentially dangerous population to ensure the safety of all residents, themselves and other staff, and the community.

Support for HB 248, Peace Officer/20-Year Retirement for Employees of Juvenile Detention and Correctional Institutions

- An inequity exists within the Public Employees Retirement System pertaining to employees of juvenile correctional facilities. Currently adult correctional officers, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute, Youth Counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The Alaska Statutes address the status of youth counselors as peace officers in AS 47.12.270 which reads, in part, **"Youth Counselors have the powers of a peace officer with respect to the service of process, the making of arrests of minors who violate state or municipal law, and the execution of orders of the court relating to juveniles, and shall assist and advise the courts in the furtherance of the welfare and control of minors under the court's jurisdiction."**
- In an October, 1998 decision (Arthur Earl WILSON v. State of Alaska, No. A-6396), the Court of Appeals of Alaska addressed the issue of youth counselors as correctional officers in the context of applicability of presumptive sentencing. Wilson attempted escape from McLaughlin Youth Center by strangling a youth counselor, forcing her into a cell, and attempting to gain control of her keys. The assault and escape attempt were interrupted by another youth counselor. The superior court ruled that presumptive sentencing applied because the assault was **"directed at a correctional officer who was engaged in the performance of her duties"**. Wilson challenged this ruling, among others, in his appeal. The State argued that, for purposes of Title 11, McLaughlin is a **"correctional facility"** and it is thus logical to classify the people who supervise McLaughlin inmates as **"correctional officers"**. In affirming the presumptive sentence under the former AS 12.55.125(d)(3), the Court of Appeals found statutory support for the State's argument in AS 47.12.270, and stated that youth counselors are **"...expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions"**. Their decision further states that youth counselors **"...are duty-bound to expose themselves to potential assault and duty-bound not to turn away when assault actually occurs. Thus, they are members of the same class of public employees that the legislature wished to protect and vindicate when the legislature enacted former AS 12.55.125(d)(3)."**
- Youth Counselors are responsible for the security, safety, and rehabilitation of a population distinguished by its impulsiveness. They provide life saving first aid in emergency situations such as suicide attempts and self harm behavior by incarcerated youth. Staff are assaulted, they must intervene in physical altercations between residents, they must physically control residents who are attempting to harm themselves or others, and they must protect the public by ensuring that facilities are secure and preventing escapes.
- In 1991, SB 32, which addressed this ongoing inequity in the retirement system, was introduced. It passed the House and the Senate, and was subsequently vetoed by then Governor Hickel. Records from the committee hearings and testimony at that time indicate the consideration of a variety of factors in passing this legislation, including working conditions substantially similar to those in adult correctional facilities, the physical risks faced by employees of juvenile correctional facilities, public safety concerns, the inevitable loss of physical and emotional stamina which occurs with age, and youth counselors as peace officers in the Alaska Statutes.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Grant Klotz
Youth Counselor III
5121 Seldon Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

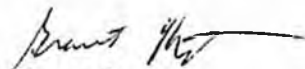
Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.


Sincerely,

Please see enclosed page.

Thanks again for all your support.



Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

1/26/02

Rep John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Coghill:

Please support HB 248, which includes the Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

As a new employee to this system in AK, I was shocked to learn that I fell under a 30 yr retirement plan when other states have 20 yr plans. As Youth Counselors, we are exposed to a lot of verbal, emotional and sometimes physical abuse and this causes people to suffer a variety of ailments. Those of us in this system chose to work with these youthful offenders because we believe that we can make a difference in someone's life.

Passing this bill, will enable the system to keep Youth Counselors in these positions. Turnover rates would decrease enormously and the residents would have consistency in their lives - something they never had until institutionalization.

Please support this bill. It's fair to us - the ones that deal with the daily issues that haunt these residents; the ones who have to deal with verbally abusive residents; the ones who care.

Thank you so much for your
support.

Sincerely,

Denise Mitchell

691 8th Ave

Fairbanks, AK 99701

30 Jan 02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Rm. 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Lori Fuller
19357 Lupin St.
Chugiak, AK 99567

Representative Coghill,

I would like to direct your attention toward HB248 which I'm asking you to support on my behalf.

Delinquent youth are unpredictable and often violent. 20 years of service in this environment should be equal to a full retirement.

I look forward to your decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lori N. Fuller yci

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Curtis Harris
204 Steelhead Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill

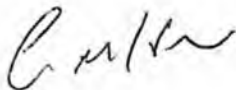
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

This piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. There are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents some of the efforts by AJCOA. Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 in the early 90s (20 year retirement) which had passed both the House and Senate and now this legislation comes up again. The AJCOA has supported the effort to bring equality to the Youth Counselor position, in the form of 20 retirement.

I ask that you support this legislation so that it may be passed out of the House State Affairs Committee and on to the House Finance Committee. The importance of this bill is that it will bring about equality with the rest of the Division of Juvenile Justice whom already enjoy a Peace Officers Retirement benefit.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

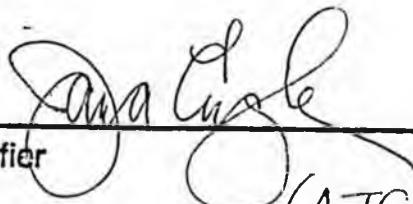




Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated 2-19-02
bill/subject

My name is Jana Engle. I am a member of Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA). I support HB248 and encourage you to do so also. Please make our retirement equitable to all other Peace Officers in the State of Alaska.

Signed: 
 Testifier (AJCOA)
 Representing (Optional)
1045 S. Cobb St. Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-1255
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 248, dated Feb 19, 2002
bill/subject

I urge you to pass HB 248 out of committee today as a ~~first~~ first step toward resolving the inequity which exists within the ranks of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

The Alaska Juvenile Correctional officers have gathered a nearly 150 signatures of those who support 20yr retirement for youth counselors. Thank you for your support.

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Assn.

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 331 Palmer, AK 99645

Address

745-3549

Phone No.

House Bill 254

Section by Section Analysis

Internal Revenue Code Compliance Legislation

Division of Retirement and Benefits

Sections 1 - 14 Apply to the Teachers' Retirement System

Section 1 Clarifies that the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. TRS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 2 Adds member information handbook as a statutory requirement in TRS. This is current practice.

Section 3 Adds mandatory language relating to Internal Revenue Code requirement that contributions deducted from employee salaries be treated as employer contributions. This requires the contribution to be made by a payroll deduction and not a separate post tax payment that is converted to pre-tax monies. This is necessary for these contributions to be taken pre-tax. This is current practice.

Section 4 Clarifies that employer contributions to TRS include any adjustments to contributions as a result of a change or error made in the contributions made on behalf of an employee (Ref. Section 8). This is current practice.

Section 5 Adds language allowing purchase of service credit in TRS using pre-tax money in other tax deferred plans (from a 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity or a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan). It also allows purchase of service credit through pre-tax payroll deductions. The language in this section is drafted to comply with the requirements of the IRS.

Section 6 Adds mandatory language prohibiting TRS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 7 Allows direct rollover of TRS employee contribution accounts to an eligible retirement plan. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans to permit such rollovers. This is current practice.

Section 8. Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 9 Adds reference to change or error in contributions made on behalf of a TRS employee.

Section 10 Specifies that the money in the TRS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. Specifies what occurs if the system is terminated. These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 11 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 12 Conforms plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code that actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits be specified in writing. A reference to the actuarial tables will be added to the member information handbook.

Section 13 Adds language to the TRS section on qualified domestic relations orders to require reference to the plan to which an order applies.

Section 14 Defines "Internal Revenue Code" and "fiscal year" to conform to IRC requirements.

Sections 15 - 23 Apply to the Judicial Retirement System

Section 15 Allows pre-tax deduction of contributions to the Judicial Retirement System. This is similar to the current practice for PERS, TRS, SBS, and Deferred Compensation.

Section 16 Corrects an erroneous reference in the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) statute to 'compensation' rather than 'retirement pay'."

Section 17 Specifies distributions of monies. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans are required to permit such rollovers. Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.. This section is required to avoid immediate taxation of such rollovers. This is current practice. Adds mandatory language prohibiting JRS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the

Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 18 Clarifies that the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. JRS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 19 Corrects an erroneous reference to 'compensation' rather than 'survivors' benefits'.

Section 20/21 These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Specifies that the money in the JRS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. Specifies what occurs if the system is terminated.

Section 22 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 23 Adds and amends definitions to conform plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code. (1) Actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits be specified in writing. The assumptions will be added to the member information handbook. (2) Adds a requirement that a qualified domestic relations order identify the plan to which it applies.

Sections 24 - 38 Apply to the Public Employees' Retirement System

Section 24 Clarifies that the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. PERS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 25 Specifies that the money in the PERS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 26 Adds member information handbook as a statutory requirement in PERS. This is current practice.

Section 27 Adds mandatory language relating to Internal Revenue Service ruling that contributions deducted from employee salaries be treated as employer contributions. This is necessary for these contributions to be taken pre-tax. This is current practice.

Section 28 Adds language allowing purchase of service credit in PERS using pre-tax money in other tax deferred plans. (Included are allowed transfers from 401(a) - Non-SBS, from a conduit IRA, from a 403(b), from a 457 plan, from the SBS Plan if the IRS makes a determination to allow this (see section 40 for IRS determination required). It also allows purchase of service credit through pre-tax payroll deductions. This requires the contribution to be made by a payroll deduction and not a separate post tax payment that is converted to pre-tax monies. The language in this section is drafted to comply with the requirements of the IRC

Section 29 Allows direct rollover of PERS employee contribution accounts to an eligible retirement plan. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans to permit such rollovers. This is current practice.

Section 30 Clarifies that employer contributions to PERS include any adjustments to contributions as a result of a change or error made in the contributions made on behalf of an employee. This is current practice.

Section 31 Adds IRS required language relating to the administrative director of the Alaska Court System, in the event the administrative director elects to withdraw from the Judicial Retirement System.

Section 32 Adds mandatory language prohibiting PERS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 33 Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 34 Adds clarifying language to a section relating to a change or error in contributions made on behalf of a PERS employee.

Section 35 Indicates that benefits paid by PERS may be subject to Federal Income taxes. The present version of the statute indicates that PERS benefits are exempt from Alaska state and municipal taxation. This clarifies the tax applicability at the Federal level.

Section 36 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 37 Conforms plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code relating to the actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits. Reference to the assumptions will be included in the member information handbook.

Section 38 Adds language to the PERS section on qualified domestic relations orders to require reference to the plan to which an order applies.

Sections 39 - 42 Relate To The Effective Date of Parts of This Act

- Section 39 Repeals out-of-date sections in the TRS, JRS and PERS statutes.
- Section 40 A temporary section of law that makes section 28, direct transfers from the SBS Annuity Plan, contingent on a favorable IRS ruling. Section 28 as it relates to SBS direct transfers are not effective unless the IRS favorably rules on this issue.
- Section 41 Retroactivity clauses to meet IRC requirements.
- Section 42 Immediate Effective Date

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES

P.O. Box 56622
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-1546
FAX (907) 488-4271



While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
(907) 465-3743
FAX (907) 465-2381

House of Representatives
House District 34

DATE: February 12, 2002
TO: Representative John Coghill, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
RE: Request to hear HB 254

Please schedule the following bill for a hearing in State Affairs at your earliest convenience:

HB 254, "TAX QUALIFIED STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS"

The sectional analysis and sponsor statement are attached.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannette James".

Representative Jeannette James

<no subject>

Wed, Feb 13, 2002 2:27 PM

Subject: <no subject>

John Lund
PO Box 202460
Anchorage, Alaska 99520

Representative John Coghill, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 13, 2002

Representative Coghill

I appreciate any help you can offer me on HB 254. It affords Alaskans like myself to participate in the new Federal tax law. The Alaskan Teacher Retirement System (TRS) recommends that individuals wishing to retire this year have all the necessary paperwork in by April 1, 2002.

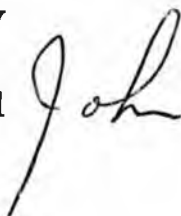
I am having a difficult time understanding why this legislation is being stalled.

I have enclosed correspondence for your review.

I appreciate any your time and effort in the legislature on the part of Alaskans like myself.

Sincerely

John Lund

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0200
PHONE: (907) 465-2200
FAX: (907) 465-2135

September 11, 2001

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear Mr. Lund:

Governor Knowles asked me to respond to your correspondence regarding the proposed legislation to allow payment of TRS indebtedness using 403(b) funds.

I have asked to Division of Retirement and Benefits to seek immediate effective date for the proposed legislation, meaning the bill (House Bill 254) will take effect on the day after it is signed by the Governor.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



JimDuncan
Commissioner

JD/GB/jd

CTS #59246

cc: Guy Bell, Director
Division of Retirement & Benefits



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TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
governor@gov.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. BOX 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532
www.gov.state.ak.us

August 14, 2001

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

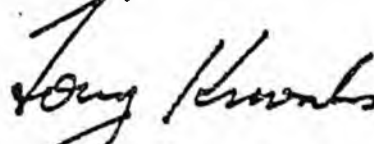
Dear Mr. Lund:

Thank you for your letter regarding 403(b) funds. As you are aware, Congress has passed a law allowing 403(b) and 457 funds to be used to purchase retirement service credit on a pre-tax basis if a person has an indebtedness or outstanding service which could be purchased under PERS or TRS. The state will also need to change the retirement systems' law to allow a transfer.

There is a bill pending in the Legislature dealing with retirement systems, and we anticipate adding the necessary language to that bill. If the legislation passes next session, it would become effective July 1, 2002.

Please note your 403(b) plan would also need to be amended so its plan document allows for the transfer of funds. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Tony Knowles
Governor

cc: Jim Duncan, Commissioner, Department of Administration
Guy Bell, Director, Division of Retirement and Benefits
Mike Abbott

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0200
PHONE: (907) 465-2200
FAX: (907) 465-2135

October 25, 2000

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear Mr. Lund:

The following is in response to your recent letter concerning H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act." This act would allow transferability of tax deferred amounts in a 403b plan into the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System to purchase service there; and a host of other retirement savings possibilities. We have actively supported this vital legislation.

As indicated previously by our Congressional Delegation, such transfers are not presently allowed. Congress has passed such legislation again this year, however. The U.S. House and Senate have overwhelmingly approved the Act. It is presently awaiting concurrence as to changes by both Houses. As you are well aware, just about anything can happen in a Presidential election year. The final fate of this legislation is still in the hands of the Congress and the President.

As you are aware from previous correspondence, the Division of Retirement & Benefits is already working on a project to update all of the State's plans (Public Employees', Teachers', and Judicial Retirement Systems) so that they could accept pre-tax contributions to purchase service. This requires an IRS Private Letter Ruling and other IRS plan qualification filings.

Action by the Alaska State Legislature will also be necessary to effect these changes. I can assure you that we will work diligently and cooperatively with the Legislature to ensure passage in the proper manner.

Sincerely,



Jim Duncan
Commissioner

JD/AS/jd

cc: Guy Bell, Director
Division of Retirement and Benefits



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CHAIRMAN
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

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(907) 283-5808

540 WATER STREET, SUITE 101
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6378
(907) 225-6880

851 E. WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

September 29, 2000

Mr. John A. Lund
Post Office Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear John:

Thank you for contacting me regarding 403(b) and IRA transfers into your retirement account with the State of Alaska Teacher Retirement System. I appreciate hearing from you again and I welcome the opportunity to give you an update.

On September 7, the Senate Finance Committee, which I am a member, unanimously approved H.R. 1102, The Retirement Security and Savings Act of 2000.

Some provisions that are of key importance are:

- Allowing individual over age 70-1/2 to roll over amounts from their IRAs directly without incurring income tax.
- Increasing the \$2,000 Individual retirement Account (IRA) contribution limit to \$5,000 and expanding eligibility for deductible IRAs.
- Partially restoring the section 415 dollar limits on annual pension contributions.
- Eliminating the complex maximum exclusion allowance (MEA) under Section 403(b)(2) and the 25 percent salary limit under Section 415(c) on pension plan contributions.
- Encouraging portability of retirement plans assets between 401(k), 403(b), 457, and other employer sponsored plans.

It is my hope that this important piece of legislation will come to the Floor of the Senate for a vote within the next few weeks. I assure you that it has my complete support.

Sincerely,



Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

HOME PAGE AND WEB MAIL
MURKOWSKI.SENATE.GOV

January 15, 2002

John A. Lund
P. O. Box 202460
Anchorage AK 99520-2460

Dear John:

Your January 11 letter raised several questions. Here is my understanding of what you can expect.

Lincoln will honor transfer requests from your 403(b) accounts to TRS once enabling legislation becomes law. I expect Division of Retirement and Benefits will need to provide a form for this purpose. It should identify your account or accounts, specify amounts, attest to the legality of the transactions and require your signature.

Once Lincoln receives this form, a check will be issued or electronic transfer made within 7 days. The transfer will not be subject to a 10% early withdrawal tax. There should be no tax consequences and no 1099 issued by Lincoln as long as direct transfer rules are followed.

Up until your 10-year anniversary date on 6/23/02, a 4% company surrender charge will apply to any withdrawal from Lincoln Contract No. 96-5711903 that exceeds 15% of the account value. In other words, you could transfer 15% (approximately \$11,850) without a charge. Anything over that incurs a 4% charge. If you could delay any transfers in excess of 15% until after 6/23/02, there would be no surrender charge. You are correct in concluding that Contract No. 96-5677625 has no surrender charge.

I hope this answers your questions. Since we haven't done one of these yet, I suppose some other issues could rise, but it looks pretty straightforward.


From your standpoint, it certainly sounds made to order for your retirement plans. I hope this proves to be the case. I'll let you know if I learn anything that is different than what I've indicated here.

Best Regards,



Bill Hueners

mab

 Mr John Lund
PO Box 202460
Ste 1
Anchorage AK 99520



Representative John Coghill, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
 committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated Feb 19, 2002
 bill/subject

I urge you to pass HB 248 out of committee today as a ~~first~~ first step toward resolving the inequity which exists within the ranks of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

The Alaska Juvenile Correctional officers have gathered a nearly 150 signatures of those who support 20% retirement for youth counselors. Thank you for your support.

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Assn.

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 331 Palmer, AK 99645

Address

745-3549

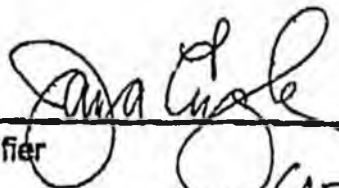
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated 2-19-02
bill/subject

My name is Jana Engle. I am a member of Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA). I support HB248 and encourage you to do so also. Please make our retirement equitable to all other Peace Officers in the State of Alaska.

Signed: 
 Testifier (AJCOA)
 Representing (Optional)
1045 S. Cobb St. Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-1255
 Phone No.

Petition Supporting HB 248

We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Art Mangrum</u>	<u>681. S. Will. Way</u>
<u>Michelle James</u>	<u>Michelle James</u>	<u>PO Box 874713 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>PHIL WILSON</u>	<u>PO Box 874713 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jesse James</u>	<u>1161 Bellwood Apt B Wasilla AK 99654</u>
<u>Karen Kemper</u>	<u>Karen Kemper</u>	<u>Box 873503 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>KEVIN DUTCHER</u>	<u>Box 875025 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Kristy Dutcher</u>	<u>KRISTY DUTCHER</u>	<u>P.O. Box 875025 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Stefanie Klee</u>	<u>Stefanie Klee</u>	<u>PO Box 3732 Palmer AK 99645</u>
<u>Sharon Sinko</u>	<u>SHARON SINKO</u>	<u>P.O. Box 870843 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Betty Chavers</u>	<u>Betty Chavers</u>	<u>PO Box 873273 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Connie M. James</u>	<u>Connie M. James</u>	<u>Box 872622 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

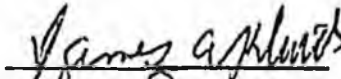
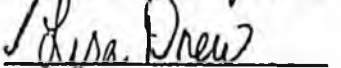

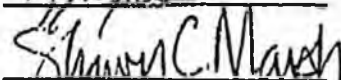
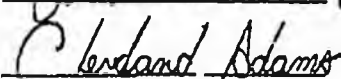
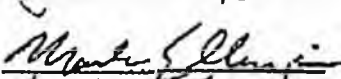
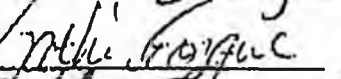

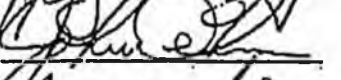

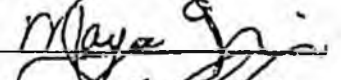
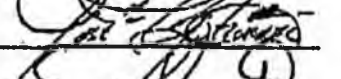
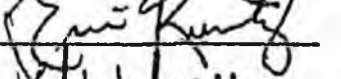
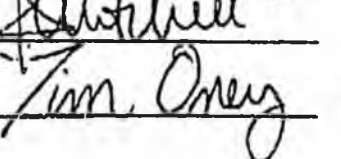
We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shawn Lindgren</u>	<u>661 goldmine Trail FBKS, AK 99701</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Lisa Beattie</u>	<u>PO Box 82671 Flnks AK 99708</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>SARA HARVISON</u>	<u>PO Box 81586 Flnks AK 99708</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Marilyn Berslin</u>	<u>2011 southernn Ave. Fairbanks AK 99709</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Arlene Cooper JR</u>	<u>478 Carlton Dr. FBKS AK 9970</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Barry Levitt</u>	<u>456 Sprucewood Park P. All 99700</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>RAYMAN STITH</u>	<u>3596 LAKEVIEW DR FAIKS 997</u> <u>PO BOX 60833</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Tyler S. Yee</u>	<u>FBKS, AIC 99706</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>MARLON K. CONKLIN</u>	<u>1519 MOLANISITY AVE</u> <u>FAIKS AK. 99705</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Samuel Green III</u>	<u>602 E. Ruffin Dr. FBKS, AK 99701</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>BARBARA MOORE</u>	<u>P.O. 73792 FBK, AK 99707</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jerry L. Dunning</u>	<u>3282 Jefferson Dr. FBKS, AK 99709</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>ALAN P. MITCHELL</u>	<u>2663 TURNER ST. #6, FBKS 99701</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

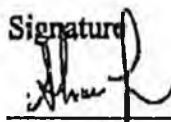
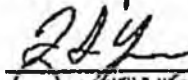
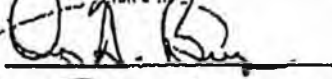
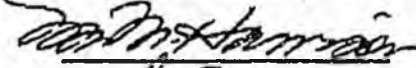
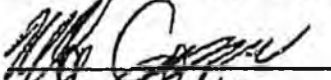

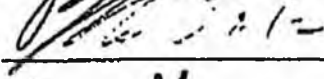
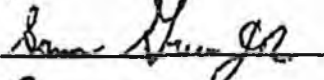
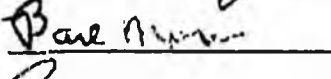
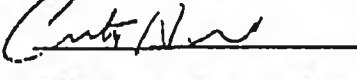
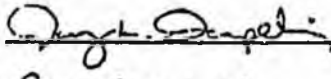
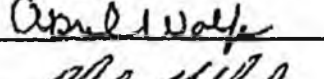
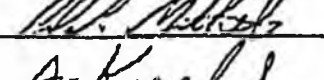
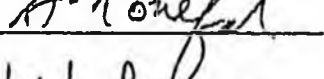
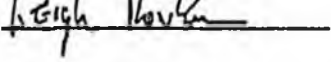
We the undersigned employees of State of Alaska Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. Passage of this important legislation will correct a long-standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System which provides for retirement eligibility after twenty years of credited service to adult correctional officers and superintendents, and adult and juvenile probation officers, but denies this benefit to employees of juvenile detention and correctional facilities. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Institution
	James A. Klein	FYF
	Lisa Drew	FYF
	Kevin J. Miller	FYF
	SHAWN C. MARSH	FYF
	Cleveland Adams	FYF
	Mark Ellington	FYF
	KATHI FORGUE	FYF
	Jeffrey L. Rentzel	FYF
	John Dehmer	FYF
	NORMA KAH	FYF
	Maya Adepoju	FYF
	Eric Kuntz	FYF
	Denise Mitchell	FYF
	Tim Oney	FYF

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

We the undersigned employees of State of Alaska Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. Passage of this important legislation will correct a long-standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System which provides for retirement eligibility after twenty years of credited service to adult correctional officers and superintendents, and adult and juvenile probation officers, but denies this benefit to employees of juvenile detention and correctional facilities. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

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	Tyler S. Yee	FYF
	Doug Bergeson	FYF
	SARA HARVISON	FYF
	Nella Cooper Jr	FYF
	RAYMOND S T T	FYF
	MARLON CONKERN	FYF
	Samuel Green Jr	FYF
	BARBARA MOORE	FYF
	Curtis Harris	FYF
	Jerry L. Donohue	FYF
	Cheryl Wolf	FYF
	ALAN MITCHELL	FYF
	ART KONEFAL	FYF
	Leigh Brown	FYF

YC II TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Robin Sammitt Robin Sammitt PO Box 871922 Wasilla AK

Craig Moseley Craig Moseley PO Box 462 Palmer AK 99646

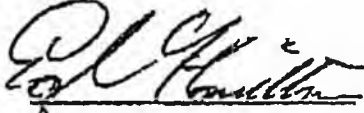
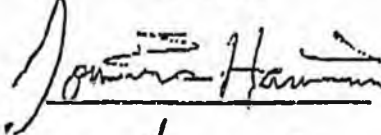
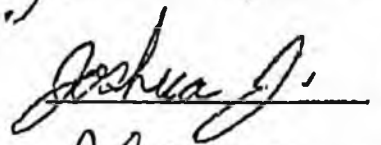
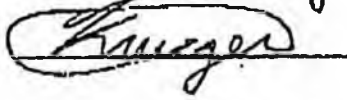
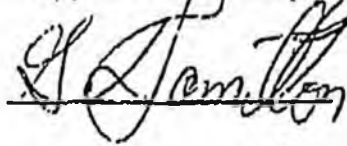
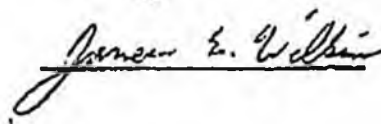
Sheila Moseley Sheila Moseley PO Box 462 Palmer AK 99646

Dale A. Hammit Dale A. Hammit P.O. Box 871922 Wasilla AK

Alec Ralston Alec Ralston PO box 871922 Wasilla AK

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
	Ed Hamilton	HC 5 Bx 6754-Q Palmer, AK
	Donnita Hamilton	HC 33 Bx 3197 Wasilla AK
	Josh Krueger 	HC 33 Bx 3195
	M.L. Hamilton-Krueger	HC 33 B 3195
	G. Smith	HC 33 - Bx 3197
	James E. Wilkins	PO 3470 Palmer AK
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Douglas Engle Douglas Engle 1045/S Colb Palmer/Ak

Mary A Hamilton MARY A HAMILTON HC 33RX 3197 Wasilla AK.

Jeremiah Hamilton Jeremiah Hamilton HC 330319.7 Wasilla AK.

David Stone DAVID STONE P.O. Box 4409 Palmer AK 99645

Frank Scheibel FRANK SCHEIBEL P.O. Box 2546 PALMER, AK 99645

Kevon M. Stock Kevon M. Stock HC03 8102-H Palmer AK 99645

Chas Klony Chas Klony PO Box 72149 Anchorage AK 99504

Angela L Hansen Angela L Hansen P.O. Box 872966 Wasilla, AK 99668

Geniene Worden Geniene Worden 1578 Pioneer Peak Wasilla AK 99657

Candice Limmer CANDICE LIMMER 403 S. Alaska St, Palmer AK 99645

Sherridan Nesgranges Sherridan Nesgranges 1980 Finger Cove Dr Palmer, AK 99645
Natasha Gott Natasha Gott P.O. Box 876582 Wasilla, AK 99687 99645

YCH TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

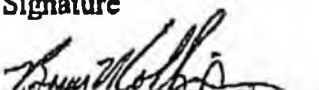

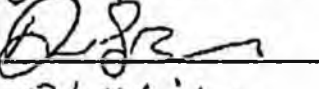
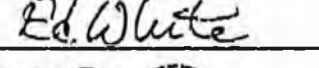

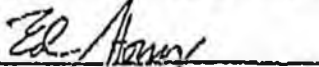
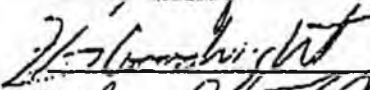
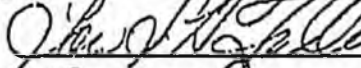
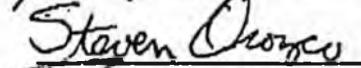



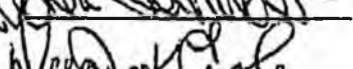

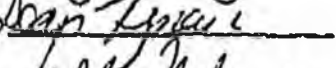
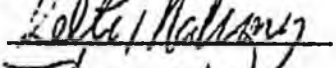
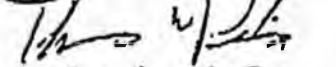
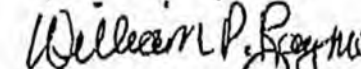
We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Don Tanner</u>	<u>Don TANNER</u>	<u>PO 696 Tallahassee FL 99676</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Chuck Payson</u>	<u>P.O. 520912 Big Lake 99652</u>
<u>Andrea Payson</u>	<u>Sandra PAYSON</u>	<u>P.O. Box 520912 Big Lake 99652</u>
<u>Laurie Swindell</u>	<u>Dominic Swindell</u>	<u>735 Colonial Ct. Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
<u>Garrett Buel</u>	<u>GARRETT BUEL</u>	<u>3701 EUREKA ST ANCHORAGE AK 99507</u>
<u>Jessie Whaley</u>	<u>Jo Ellen Whaley</u>	<u>11031 Box 5084 Wasilla, AK 99652</u>
<u>Frederic Ericson</u>	<u>Frederic Ericson</u>	<u>Box 3115 Palmer, AK 99606</u>
<u>Kristan Cole</u>	<u>KRISTAN COLE</u>	<u>PO Box 871706 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Bradford Cole</u>	<u>Bradford Cole</u>	<u>PO Box 871706 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Bryan R. Epley</u>	<u>Bryan R. Epley</u>	<u>PO Box 4346 Palmer, AK 99606</u>
<u>Sharnice J. Epley</u>	<u>Sharnice J. Epley</u>	<u>PO Box 4346 Palmer, AK 99606</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

We the undersigned employees of State of Alaska Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. Passage of this important legislation will correct a long-standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System which provides for retirement eligibility after twenty years of credited service to adult correctional officers and superintendents, and adult and juvenile probation officers, but denies this benefit to employees of juvenile detention and correctional facilities. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Institution
	Bruce Collins	MSYF
	Albert R. Phelan	MSYF
	DAVID L. BRUNER	MSYF
	Edward White	MSYF
	Fredric Brown	MSYF / MSBSD
	Ed Storn	MSYF / MSBSD
	HARRY Goodnight	MSYF
	Lori L.H. Fuller	MSYF
	Steven Orozco	MSYF
	Ray Michaelson	MSYF
	ARRON TANNER	MSYF
	Andrea Ferhardt	MSYF
	DeeJana K. Engle	MSYF
	SEAN TYMAN	MSYF
	Kelli Mahoney	MSYF
	Thomas Peria	MSYF
	William P. Raymond	MSYF
	Andrea Peria	MSYF

PETITION SUPPORTING HB 248

We the undersigned, members of the Community Justice Coalition of Mat-Su, support and encourage the passage of HB 248 which allows the Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders and Superintendents of the state's juvenile correctional facilities, to enter into the Peace Officers Retirement System and become eligible to retire after 20 years of service to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Amy J. Dand
[Signature]

Amy L. Spargo
Suzanne C. [Signature]

Katherine Denton

[Signature]

[Signature]

Jodie Mann

Cynthia Sweet

[Signature]

Roxanne Lyson

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

YOUTH Counselor II
TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Rachel Loftis</u>	<u>PO Box 570538 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Kustina [unclear]</u>	<u>PO Box 573072 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Mandy Tanner</u>	<u>Mandy Tanner</u>	<u>850 E. Agate Lane Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Linda Wilson</u>	<u>HC 30 Box 5598A Wasilla AK 99654</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shannon Parrish</u>	<u>PO Box 961 PALMER AK 99645</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Darby Meredith</u>	<u>700 Yakima St Wasilla 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Amanda Trout</u>	<u>1830 E Park Hwy Ste 211 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Adam P. Spencer</u>	<u>2701 Cottonwood Loop, Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[unclear]</u>	<u>P.O. Box 222 PALMER AK 99645</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jodi Granhoffer</u>	<u>PO Box 222 PALMER</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shane McNeillis</u>	<u>PO Box 570726 Wasilla AK 99687</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Rob Wood</u>	<u>Rob Wood</u>	<u>581 Outer Springer Loop Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Kim Collins</u>	<u>Kim Collins</u>	<u>HCO4 Box 9031 Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Peter D. Jones</u>	<u>PETER D. JONES</u>	<u>2913 FOSTER AVE JUNEAU, AK 99801</u>
<u>Albert E. Nelson</u>	<u>Albert E. Nelson</u>	<u>PO BOX 20543 JUNEAU, AK 99802</u>
<u>Alberta Jones</u>	<u>Alberta Jones</u>	<u>2973 Foster Ave. Juneau</u>
<u>Scott Dornbier</u>	<u>Scott Dornbier</u>	<u>6750 Gray St Juneau, AK 99801</u>
<u>John Lepore</u>	<u>John Lepore</u>	<u>P.O. Box 27517 JUNEAU, AK 99802</u>
<u>Frederic Brown</u>	<u>Frederic Brown</u>	<u>Box 3115 Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Margaret Hogarty</u>	<u>Margaret Hogarty</u>	<u>3500 Snowgoose Dr Wasilla, 99654 Palmer 99645</u>
<u>William Burton</u>	<u>William Burton</u>	<u>1375 BRANDING IRON LAKE Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Jaune Tavanche</u>	<u>Jaune Tavanche</u>	<u>PO Box 877024 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Steven A Raoford Steven A Raoford P.O. Box 871622 Wasilla, AK 99687

Charles P. Faraci Charles P. Faraci P.O. Box 473251 Wasilla AK 99612

Denise Gilbert Denise Gilbert HC31 Box 5262B Wasilla AK 99615

Jorge I. C. Nmaso Jorge I. C. Nmaso P.O. Box 572781 Wasilla, AK 99615

David A. Stickle David A. Stickle P.O. Box 4885 Palmer AK

James C. Harting James C. Harting 8001 Plymouth Cir Wasilla, AK 99614

Don Gibson Don Gibson 4194 Fairchild CAF, AK 9950

Jeffrey M. McKente Jeffrey M. McKente HC04 Box 9005 Palmer AK

Donald E. Farwell Donald E. Farwell HC31 5078-C Wasilla, AK 99612

Ben Hopper Ben Hopper 2240 Caribou Cross Rd Wasilla, AK 99615

Jill Shagen Jill Shagen P.O. Box 871247 Wasilla AK 99687

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Evelyn E. Conley</u>	<u>Evelyn E. Conley</u>	<u>P.O. Box 874394 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Dwight R. Bronich</u>	<u>Dwight R. Bronich</u>	<u>HC05 Box 9896 Palmer</u>
<u>Fred Van Wallinga</u>	<u>Fred Van Wallinga</u>	<u>P.O. Box 751 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Margaret Volz</u>	<u>Margaret Volz</u>	<u>P.O. Box 872539 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Jami Anderson</u>	<u>Jami Anderson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 246 Palmer, AK</u>
<u>Tami K. Eller</u>	<u>Tami K. Eller</u>	<u>3001 Sakia, Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
<u>Vickie Perse</u>	<u>Vickie Perse</u>	<u>1655 Pioneer Peak Wasilla AK 99654</u>
<u>Vera Henschey</u>	<u>Vera Henschey</u>	<u>PO Box 874783 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Margaret Heaven</u>	<u>MARGARET HEAVEN</u>	<u>HC 31, Box 5113 WASILLA AK 99654</u>
<u>William Mahoney</u>	<u>WILLIAM MAHONEY</u>	<u>925 LOWE CUB WASILLA AK</u>
<u>Matt Mahoney</u>	<u>Matt Mahoney</u>	<u>925 Lowe Cub Drive wasilla AK 99654</u>

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: April 20, 2001

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 7 Mar 2002

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 248

HOUSE BILL NO. 248

PERS BENEFITS FOR JUV INSTIT EMPLOYEES

"An Act relating to retirement contributions and benefits under the public employees' retirement system of certain juvenile detention employees and juvenile correctional institution employees."

Recommends it be replaced with CS () [] 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

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

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN #	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Reggie Wilson</i>	Wilson	✓			
<i>Harold Crawford Jr</i>	CRAWFORD	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	STEVENS	✗			
<i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Fade	✓			
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>				✓
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>				

December 22, 2001

Dear Representative Coghill,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well as you travel to the 22nd legislative session. As you may recall Bernard Gatewood and I visited you recently to discuss **HB 248**, the juvenile corrections (youth counselor) 20-retirement bill that currently resides in your committee. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the compelling reasons I feel this bill deserves yours, and others, immediate attention.

- Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents, are the employees who are responsible for the safety, security, and programs within the States' seven juvenile correctional facilities.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice was formed in 1999, separating family services and juvenile corrections. Of the approximately 350 DJJ employees, Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents are the *only* DJJ employees not included in the 20-year peace officer retirement system.
- A similar inequity was recognized in 1990 when the Juvenile Probation Officers were included in the 20-year peace officer retirement system. It was determined that all probation officers, whether it be juvenile or adult, should be treated equally.
- The same argument holds true when comparing Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents to their adult counterparts.
- Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents undergo similar recruitment, screening, and training as juvenile probation officers, adult correctional officers, and adult probation officers, yet do not receive equal pay and benefits.
- Youth counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents are at equal if not greater risk than our adult counterparts due to the impulsivity and unpredictableness of adolescent criminal offenders.

I sincerely hope that you support this piece of legislation and convince others to do likewise. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Jeff Rigo

989 Willow Grouse Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

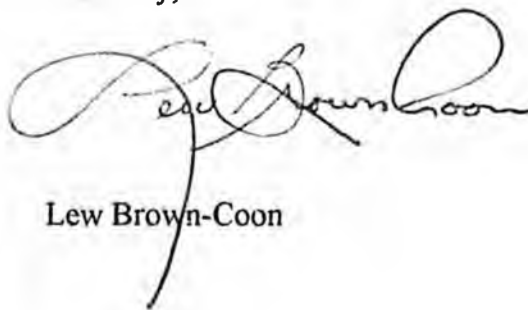
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lew Brown-Coon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lew Brown-Coon

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Anderson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Arthur Anderson

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

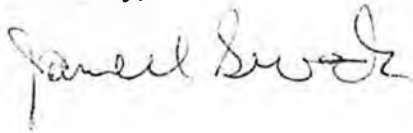
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It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamell Swader".

Jamell Swader

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 26, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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Sincerely,

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Brandy Coltellaro

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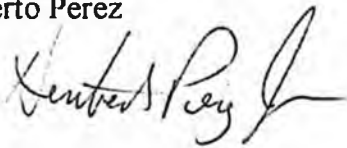
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Sincerely,

Heriberto Perez

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice D. Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice Anderson

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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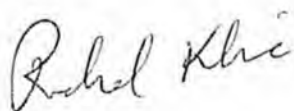
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Richard Kline

HB 248

February 20, 2002

Rynniva:

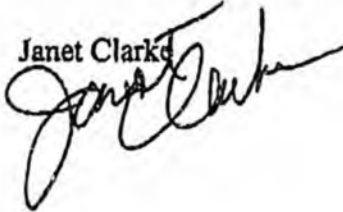
Attached are copies from the FY03 Rate development for various rates that Dept of Administration develops to charge State Agencies, which impact personal services.

Except for those items that are monetary terms of contracts (i.e. health insurance), departments do not normally request funds to pay for changes to rates, state agencies change their budget to "absorb" these costs by leaving positions vacant etc. You can also see that rates can vary from year to year.

I thought you could benefit by seeing this side of the issue when discussing the 20-year retirement bill for Youth Counselors.

If I can be of any other help, please call me at 465-1630.

Janet Clarke



WORKING RESERVE RATES				
Net Change FY02/FY03 3 rate total	LEAVE CASH-IN Department	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
-1.48%	Administration	2.52%	2.62%	1.79%
0.61%	Community and Economic Development	0.65%	1.96%	3.32%
-1.75%	Corrections	2.66%	3.19%	2.19%
-1.06%	Education and Early Development	1.75%	1.05%	0.72%
-0.60%	Environmental Conservation	1.26%	1.91%	2.06%
-1.01%	Fish and Game	4.50%	4.83%	4.67%
-1.92%	Governor's Office	3.62%	4.60%	3.43%
0.57%	Health and Social Services	0.90%	1.12%	2.43%
-0.29%	Labor and Workforce Development	1.58%	1.90%	2.36%
-1.23%	Law	1.71%	0.70%	0.19%
-0.93%	Military and Veterans Affairs	1.73%	2.04%	1.86%
-0.65%	Natural Resources	2.66%	3.03%	3.10%
0.04%	Public Safety	2.97%	2.76%	3.55%
0.94%	Public Safety PSEA	2.89%	1.83%	3.52%
-0.11%	Revenue	1.14%	1.08%	1.42%
-0.58%	Transportation and Public Facilities	1.44%	1.42%	1.59%
-2.25%	Legislative Affairs	3.10%	3.83%	2.33%
-4.56%	Legislative Audit	4.22%	8.08%	4.25%
-0.88%	Court System	0.64%	0.42%	0.29%
TERMINAL LEAVE				
		FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
	All Departments	1.88%	1.61%	0.76%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE				
		FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
	All Departments	0.42%	0.27%	0.37%
<p>FY03 Usage is determined by using the average of the last three years of actual use. The payroll base is estimated at 60% of the FY02 budgeted amount for personal services.</p>				

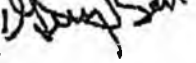
MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Administration

To: Dan Spencer
 Director
 Division of Administrative Services

Date: August 21, 2001
 File: 03_rates.doc

From: Guy Bell 
 Director
 Division of Retirement & Benefits

Telephone No.: 465-4471

Subject: FY 2003 Rates for Budget Instructions/Automated Budget System (ABS)

1. **Supplemental Benefit Rate and *estimated* maximum:**
 6.13% \$5,201.50 - based upon an estimated Social Security limit of \$85,000. The social security wage base and maximum FICA contribution for calendar 2001 will be finalized by the Social Security Administration and disseminated to states before November 1, 2001.
2. **Medicare Portion of Social Security and maximum:**
 1.45% (no maximum)

Note: This employer/employee tax applies to all employees hired after 3/31/86. Because ABS does not differentiate between individuals who must pay the tax and those who don't, a 1.0% figure is used in the calculation as a reasonable estimate.

3. **Retirement Rates:**

PERS (Code A & E): 7.20%
 PERS (Code F & P): 7.10%
 TRS (Code T): 11.00%
 Judicial - JRS (Code): 28.28%

4. **Health Insurance Rates:** NOTE: Rates are per full-time employee per month subject to bargaining unit contract negotiations.

Bargaining Code	Amount
AA, AP	\$630.00
GC	\$630.00
GG, GY	\$630.00
GP	\$630.00
BB, CC, MM	\$630.00
TA	\$630.00
TM	\$630.00
TC	\$630.00
KK	\$630.00
EE, XE, XJ, XL, XX, CS	\$630.00
SS	\$630.00
LL	\$630.00

5. **Life Insurance Rates:** All bargaining unit codes: \$1.50

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO:
<i>Rynniva Mass</i>
<i>Rep. Coghill</i>
<i>3258</i>
FAX NUMBER
<i>3719</i>
PHONE NUMBER

FROM:
<i>J. Clark</i>
DATE
NO. OF PAGES
465-2499
FAX NUMBER
<i>Vo30</i>
PHONE NUMBER

RE:

- URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY OTHER

NOTES/COMMENTS:

State of Alaska
 Department of Health & Social Services
 Division of Administrative Services/Director's Office
 P.O. Box 110650
 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0650

John Coghill
119 N. Cushman, Suite 211
Fairbanks, Alaska 99901
November 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Coghill:

My name is Catherine E. Bishop and I am a teacher for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, having taught there for almost twenty-five years. I am writing to you about the idea of an incentive for teachers of my years in the business to retire and make way for the younger ones. I realize that the idea of retiring teachers when there is supposed to be a teacher shortage sounds counter-productive but I feel if you read this letter, it will give a number of reasons why it isn't.

At my end of the pay scale I currently support a salary of \$58,650.00. When one contrasts that with the salary currently given for new teachers in my district, \$33,500.00, then the difference is significant.

There are about thirty teachers in my district that are at my level of years or greater and if you consider that amount of teachers at a cost of nearly \$59,000.00 each, then the amount being expended at the upper end is in excess of \$1,770,000.0 just for that handful of people.

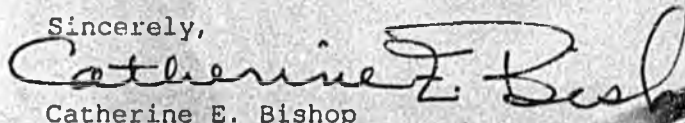
If one were to hire thirty teachers at the beginning salary it would total \$1,140,000.00. The difference, \$630,000.00 could be utilized to hire about twenty-five more new teachers. It would mean that the district could lower teacher-student ratios and put money saved into necessary areas. It would also mean a younger crop of teachers with the necessary savings on medical care that younger and probably more healthy people would bring to the table.

It would be useful in this negotiations year for not only my district but many others to have flexibility in the costs of running a system like this. Salaries and benefits are always a huge dividing line between management and employees. If the offer of retiring early was made, it would not only benefit those of us who would happily choose that option but also the district that must make dollars go farther now with declining oil revenues. It would also give newer unemployed teachers a chance to begin their careers. There are plenty of them out there too.

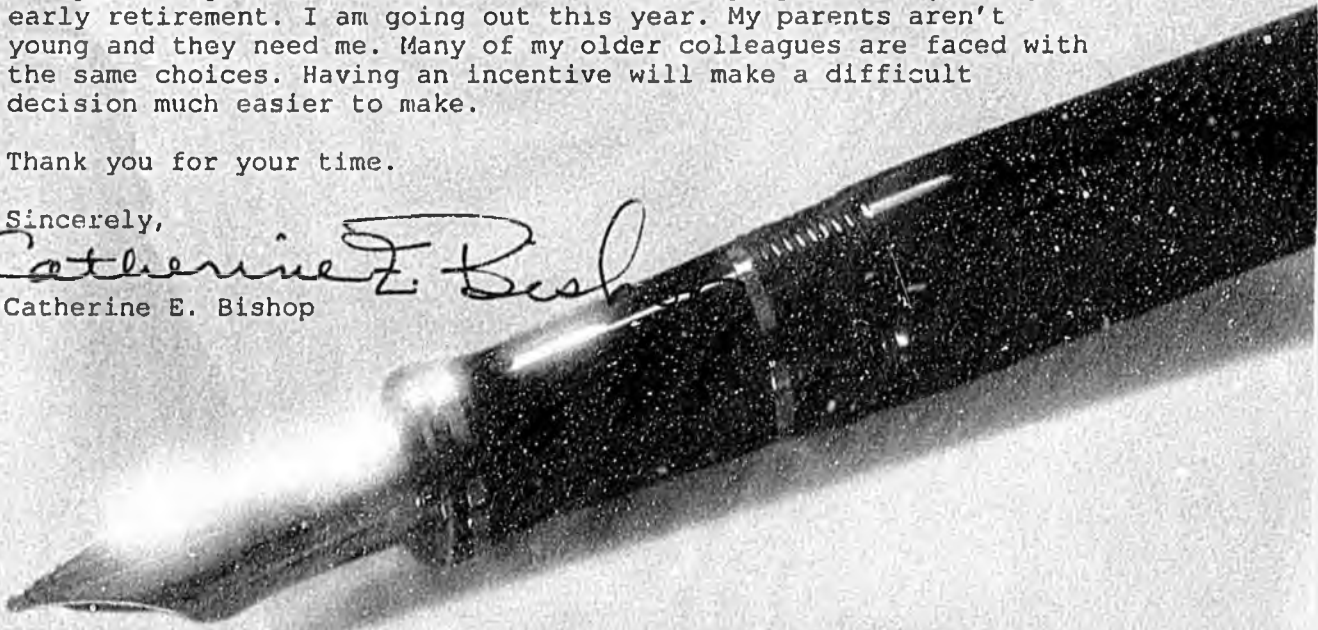
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Catherine E. Bishop

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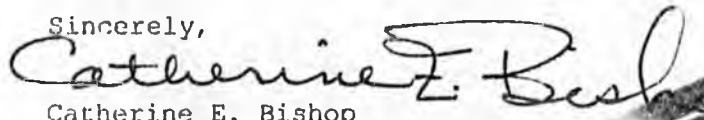
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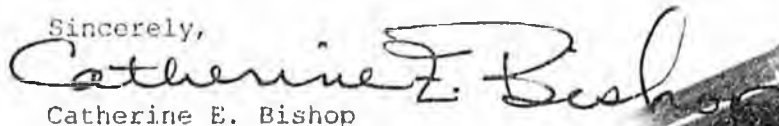
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January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182.

William P. Raymond Jr.
659 East Eklutna
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is William Raymond and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been reformed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

William P. Raymond Jr.
William P. Raymond, Jr.

January 21, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ray Michaelson
P.O. Box 331
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and am employed by the Division Of Juvenile Justice as the Superintendent of the Mat-Su Youth Facility in palmer. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray Michaelson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

January 22, 2002

Representative John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Kathrine Shankel
4001 Edinburgh Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Representative Coghill,

My name is Kathrine Shankel and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Unit Leader in the McLaughlin Youth Center Facility in Anchorage. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the 20-year retirement legislation for Youth Counselors, HB 248.

As I believe you are already aware, a great inequity in the retirement system exists within DJJ. Almost all other employees in DJJ are in the 20 year Peace Officers Retirement System and have been for sometime. I have attached here a list of items for your consideration which describe the inequities that exist in the current system.

As Chair of the State Affairs Committee, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing. I certainly support such an action as a Unit Leader and an AJCOA member. I am confident that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it, as this is so clearly a basic equity and fairness issue.

Mr. Coghill, your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathrine Shankel

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth Counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custody, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In an Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselors" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct.23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Subcommittee Chair
Environmental Conservation
Courts

During Session:
State Capitol
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In Ketchikan:
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Representative William K. Williams

Sponsor Statement For HB 248

20 Year Retirement Provision for Juvenile Officer

Presently, Alaska law (AS 39.35.370(a)(2)) states that peace officers and firefighters are entitled to normal retirement benefit after 20 years of service. HB 248 adds "juvenile officers" to AS 39.35.370(a)(2) as employees eligible to participate in the 20 year retirement system. The term "juvenile officer" is defined to mean a "youth counselor, unit leader, or superintendent in a juvenile detention or juvenile correctional facility". Generally speaking, these "juvenile officers" are the employees who work with juveniles *inside* a correctional facility. They have the same or very similar training, and authority to restrain and arrest individuals as other peace officers.

Juveniles who are in a correctional facility are there for reasons such as commission of a serious crime, mental health problems, substance abuse problems, or a combination of all of these issues. Such juveniles demand the highest level of care and rehabilitation efforts, while at the same time, presenting the highest level of risk to juvenile officers.

Presently, probation officers and other employees working with juveniles *outside* a correctional facility qualify for a 20 year retirement. As presently written, the statutes create an uneven situation where a probation officer working outside a correctional facility could arrest and deliver a juvenile to a correctional facility. The officer outside the facility would be entitled to a 20 year retirement while the officers inside the facility are not. Adult correctional officers also qualify for a 20 year retirement.

Providing a 20 year retirement system for juvenile officers is fair since these employees perform the same or very similar work duties as other employees charged with preserving public safety. It also creates an incentive for existing juvenile officers to remain in their positions and will attract qualified applicants for new positions.

HB

253

Alaska State Legislature

In District 34:

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In Juneau:

State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
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House Of Representatives

Majority Leader
Representative Jeannette James

DATE: February 20, 2002
TO: Representative John Coghill, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
RE: Request to hear HB 253

Please schedule HB 253 for a hearing in State Affairs at your earliest convenience.

The bill and sponsor statement are attached.

Thank you.



Representative Jeannette James

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES
PO Box 56622
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-1546
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House of Representatives
House District 34

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 253

Social Workers 20-Year Retirement

House Bill 253 would add "Social Workers" to the growing list of state employees eligible for retirement after 20 years of service.

By allowing any person currently working for the State of Alaska as a Social Worker to "buy in" to 20-year retirement (paying the difference between that and his/her current contributions) the bill would benefit current employees.

But the major benefit to the State of Alaska, if this bill passes, would be as a recruitment tool when filling new positions. Social Workers have a difficult job, and we need to be sure we are attracting and retaining the very best candidates to play this critically important role.