

Sponsor Statement SS Senate Bill 24

“An Act relating to reemployment of and benefits for retired teachers and public employees and to teachers or employees who participated in retirement incentive programs and are subsequently reemployed as a commissioner; repealing secs. 5,7, and 9, ch. 58, SLA 2001; providing for an effective date by amending the delayed effective date for secs. 3, 5, 9 and 12, ch. 57, SLA 2001, and repealing sec. 13, ch. 58, SLA 2001, which is the delayed effective date for secs. 5,7, and 9, ch. 58, SLA 2001; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill 24 would extend a program that was established in 2001 that allows retired teachers and public employees that retired under normal retirement or those individuals that retired under the Retirement Incentive Program (RIP) and are subsequently reemployed as a commissioner, to return to the workforce without foregoing their retirement benefit payments during their period of return. However, in order to keep this program cost-neutral, an employee selecting this option would not accrue additional retirement credit while being reemployed.

This legislation will provide a management tool to assist Alaska’s public employers in attracting and retaining qualified workers that are having difficulty filling vacancies. In addition, it allows employers to develop plans that address the knowledge, skills, and abilities that need to be transferred or developed to assure the work can be accomplished when the reemployment provisions sunset on July 1, 2009.

I urge you to support this legislation.