

# Sponsor Statement for HB 253

## Child Protection: PERS Peace Officer Status

*An Act relating to retirement contributions and benefits under the public employees' retirement system of certain state employees who are employed as child protection workers or who supervise child protection workers.*

**Updated:** February 20, 2002  
**Contact:** Representative Jeannette James's office at (907) 465-3727

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