

SENATE BILL NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KIEHL

Introduced: 1/19/21

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to restoration of tenure for certain disabled individuals; relating to the**
2 **Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the teachers' retirement system;**
3 **providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and**
4 **defined contribution plans of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and**
5 **the teachers' retirement system; and providing for an effective date."**

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

7 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20.165 is amended to read:

8 **Sec. 14.20.165. Restoration of tenure rights.** A teacher who held tenure
9 rights and who was retired due to disability under AS 14.25.130, but whose disability
10 (1) has been removed, and the removal of that disability is certified by a competent
11 physician following a physical or mental examination, or (2) has been compensated
12 for by rehabilitation or other appropriate restorative education or training, and that
13 rehabilitation or restoration to health has been certified by the commissioner of

1 **administration** [DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF THE
 2 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT], shall be
 3 restored to full tenure rights in the district from which the teacher was retired, at such
 4 time as an opening for which the teacher is qualified becomes available.

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.25.009 is repealed and reenacted to read:

6 **Sec. 14.25.009. Applicability of AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220.** (a) The provisions
 7 of AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 apply to teachers who are eligible to be members of the
 8 teachers' retirement system under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 and are not members of
 9 the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590.

10 (b) An employer that participates in the plan shall also participate in the
 11 defined contribution retirement plan under AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.25.040(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) Unless a teacher or member participates in a university retirement program
 14 under AS 14.40.661 - 14.40.799 or has elected under **AS 14.25.330 or former**
 15 AS 14.25.540 to participate in the plan established in AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590, a
 16 teacher or member contracting for service with a participating employer is subject to
 17 AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220.

18 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.25.050(a) is amended to read:

19 (a) Except as provided in (c) **and (e)** of this section, beginning January 1,
 20 1991, each member shall contribute to the plan an amount equal to 8.65 percent of the
 21 member's base salary accrued from July 1 to the following June 30. [THE
 22 EMPLOYER SHALL DEDUCT THE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE MEMBER'S
 23 SALARY AT THE END OF EACH PAYROLL PERIOD, AND THE
 24 CONTRIBUTION SHALL BE CREDITED BY THE PLAN TO THE MEMBER
 25 CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE DEDUCTED
 26 FROM EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION BEFORE THE COMPUTATION OF
 27 APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAXES AND SHALL BE TREATED AS EMPLOYER
 28 CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER 26 U.S.C. 414(h)(2). A MEMBER MAY NOT HAVE
 29 THE OPTION OF MAKING THE PAYROLL DEDUCTION DIRECTLY IN CASH
 30 INSTEAD OF HAVING THE CONTRIBUTION PICKED UP BY THE
 31 EMPLOYER.]

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.25.050 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

2 (e) Except as provided in (c) of this section, a member who first participates in
3 the plan after June 30, 2006, shall contribute to the plan an amount equal to eight
4 percent of the employee's base salary accrued from July 1 to the following June 30.

5 (f) The employer shall deduct the contributions under (a) and (e) of this
6 section from the member's salary at the end of each payroll period, and the
7 contributions shall be credited by the plan to the member contribution account. The
8 contributions shall be deducted from employee compensation before the computation
9 of applicable federal taxes and shall be treated as employer contributions under 26
10 U.S.C. 414(h)(2). A member may not have the option of making the payroll deduction
11 directly in cash instead of having the contribution picked up by the employer.

12 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.25.130(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

13 (c) A disabled member receiving a benefit under this section shall undergo a
14 medical examination as often as the administrator considers advisable, but not more
15 frequently than once each year. The administrator shall determine the place of the
16 examination and engage the physician or physicians. If the administrator determines
17 that the examination indicates that the disabled member is no longer incapacitated
18 because of a total and apparently permanent occupational disability, the administrator
19 may not issue further disability benefits to the disabled member.

20 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.25.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 (g) A person who first becomes a member after June 30, 2006, and who is
22 appointed to disability benefits shall, within 30 days after the date disability benefits
23 commence, provide the administrator with proof that the member has applied for
24 enrollment in a vocational rehabilitation program approved by the administrator.
25 Unless the member demonstrates cause, the benefits terminate at the end of the first
26 month in which the member

27 (1) fails to provide the administrator with the required proof of
28 application for enrollment;

29 (2) is certified by the administrator as failing to enroll in or cooperate
30 with a vocational rehabilitation program approved under this subsection;

31 (3) fails to interview for a job; or

1 (4) fails to accept a job offered.

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

3 (d) A benefit recipient **who first became a member before July 1, 2006, or**
 4 **the benefit recipient's surviving spouse** may elect major medical insurance coverage
 5 in accordance with regulations and under the following conditions:

6 (1) a **benefit recipient** [PERSON] who has less than 25 years of
 7 membership service and who is younger than 60 years of age must pay an amount
 8 equal to the full monthly group premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage;

9 (2) a disabled member, a disabled member who is appointed to normal
 10 retirement, a person 60 years of age or older, or a person who has at least 25 years of
 11 membership service is not required to make premium payments.

12 * **Sec. 9.** AS 14.25.168 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

13 (g) A benefit recipient, or the surviving spouse of a benefit recipient, who first
 14 becomes a member after June 30, 2006, may elect major medical insurance coverage
 15 that was in effect before July 1, 2006, in accordance with this section and applicable
 16 regulations and under the following conditions:

17 (1) if the participating member or surviving spouse is not eligible for
 18 Medicare, the cost of a monthly premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage
 19 elected under this section is equal to the full monthly group premium for retiree major
 20 medical insurance coverage;

21 (2) if the participating member or surviving spouse is eligible for
 22 Medicare, the cost of a monthly premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage
 23 is a percentage of the full monthly group premium, as follows:

24 (A) 30 percent if the member had 10 or more, but less than 15,
 25 years of service;

26 (B) 25 percent if the member had 15 or more, but less than 20,
 27 years of service;

28 (C) 20 percent if the member had 20 or more, but less than 25,
 29 years of service;

30 (3) the cost of a monthly premium paid by the participating member or
 31 the surviving spouse for retiree major medical insurance coverage is

1 (A) 15 percent of the full monthly group premium if the
2 participating member has 25 or more, but less than 30, years of service;

3 (B) 10 percent of the full monthly group premium if the
4 participating member has 30 or more years of service;

5 (4) a disabled member or a disabled member who is appointed to
6 normal retirement is not required to make premium payments.

7 (h) On or after July 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter, the administrator
8 shall adjust the percentages under (g)(2) and (3) of this section as needed to maintain,
9 but not to exceed, over the succeeding five years, an employer normal cost rate for
10 persons who first became participating members after June 30, 2006, and the surviving
11 spouses of those persons that does not exceed the combined total of the rates under
12 AS 14.25.350(a), (b), (d), and (e) minus the employer normal cost rate attributable to
13 persons who first became participating members after June 30, 2006, for benefits
14 under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.167. An adjustment made under this subsection shall
15 remain in effect for five years. In making an adjustment under this subsection, the
16 administrator shall maintain the five percent differences between the percentages in
17 (g)(2)(A), (B), and (C) of this section and the five percent differences between the
18 percentages in (g)(3)(A) and (B) of this section.

19 (i) When a member is appointed to retirement, the member obtains a vested
20 right to the applicable percentage under (g)(2) or (3) of this section, as adjusted under
21 (h) of this section, that is in effect when the member is appointed to retirement. A
22 member does not obtain a vested right to a percentage under (g)(2) or (3) of this
23 section, as adjusted under (h) of this section, before the member is appointed to
24 retirement.

25 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.25.310 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 14.25.310. Applicability of AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590.** The provisions of
27 AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590 apply only to

28 **(1) teachers who first become members on or after July 1, 2006, and**
29 **before the effective date of this section who do not transfer to a defined benefit**
30 **retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 or AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680;**

31 **(2) teachers described in AS 14.25.330 who elect under that section**

1 **to become** [TO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY EMPLOYERS THAT DO
 2 NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN
 3 ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220, TO FORMER MEMBERS
 4 UNDER AS 14.25.220, OR TO] members; **and**

5 **(3) teachers** who **transferred** [TRANSFER] into the defined
 6 contribution retirement plan under **former** AS 14.25.540.

7 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.25.310 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (b) An employer that participates in the plan shall also participate in the
 9 defined benefit retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220.

10 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.25.330 is repealed and reenacted to read:

11 **Sec. 14.25.330. Retirement plan election option.** (a) A teacher who is first
 12 hired on or after the effective date of this section may make a one-time election to
 13 participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590
 14 retroactive to the date of hire and may transfer to that plan employee contributions, if
 15 any, and employer contributions, if any, that have been made to the defined benefit
 16 retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220. Before employer contributions are
 17 transferred under this subsection, the administrator shall recalculate them under
 18 AS 14.25.070.

19 (b) The election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan
 20 under (a) of this section must be made within 90 days after the date of hire and be
 21 made in writing on a form and in the manner prescribed by the administrator. Before
 22 accepting an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the
 23 administrator shall, within 20 days after the administrator receives notification of the
 24 teacher's date of hire, provide the teacher eligible to make an election to participate in
 25 the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590 with

26 (1) information, including calculations to illustrate the effect of
 27 moving the teacher's retirement plan from the defined benefit retirement plan to the
 28 defined contribution retirement plan; and

29 (2) other information clearly to inform the teacher of the potential
 30 consequences of the teacher's election.

31 (c) An election made under (a) of this section to participate in the defined

1 contribution retirement plan is irrevocable. Retroactive to the date of hire, the teacher
 2 shall be enrolled in the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 14.25.310 -
 3 14.25.590, the teacher's participation in the plan shall be governed by the provisions
 4 for the defined contribution retirement plan, and the teacher's participation in the
 5 defined benefit retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 shall terminate.

6 (d) When an eligible teacher makes an election under (a) of this section, the
 7 administrator shall cause the total amount of the teacher's employee and employer
 8 contributions, with investment earnings and losses through the final day of the
 9 teacher's participation in the defined benefit retirement plan, to be actuarially
 10 calculated and transferred to the teacher's designated account in the defined
 11 contribution retirement plan. The administrator shall establish transfer procedures by
 12 regulation, but the actual transfer may not be later than 30 days after the date the
 13 administrator receives the teacher's completed election form under (b) of this section,
 14 unless the major financial markets for securities available for a transfer are seriously
 15 disrupted by an unforeseen event that also causes the suspension of trading on any
 16 national securities exchange in the country where the securities were issued. In that
 17 event, the 30-day period may be extended by a resolution of the board. Transfers are
 18 not commissionable or subject to other fees and may be in the form of securities or
 19 cash as determined by the board. Securities shall be valued on the date of receipt in the
 20 teacher's account.

21 (e) An election made under (a) of this section by an eligible teacher who is
 22 married may not take effect unless the election is signed by the teacher's spouse. An
 23 eligible teacher whose accounts are subject to a qualified domestic relations order may
 24 not make an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under
 25 this section unless the qualified domestic relations order is amended or vacated and
 26 court-certified copies of the order are received by the administrator.

27 * **Sec. 13.** AS 14.25.485(h) is repealed and reenacted to read:

28 (h) A member who is appointed to disability benefits shall, within 30 days
 29 after the date disability benefits commence, provide the administrator with proof that
 30 the member has applied for enrollment in a vocational rehabilitation program
 31 approved by the administrator. Unless the member demonstrates cause, the benefits

1 terminate at the end of the first month in which the member

2 (1) fails to provide the administrator with the required proof of
3 application for enrollment;

4 (2) is certified by the administrator as failing to enroll in or cooperate
5 with a vocational rehabilitation program approved under this subsection;

6 (3) fails to interview for a job; or

7 (4) fails to accept a job offered.

8 * **Sec. 14.** AS 39.35.095 is repealed and reenacted to read:

9 **Sec. 39.35.095. Applicability of AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680.** (a) The provisions
10 of AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680 apply to public employees who are eligible to be
11 members of the public employees' retirement system under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680
12 and are not members of the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 39.35.700 -
13 39.35.990.

14 (b) A public organization or a municipality or other political subdivision of the
15 state that participates in the plan shall also participate in the defined contribution
16 retirement plan under AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990.

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

18 **Sec. 39.35.128. Participation of elected officials of political subdivisions.** (a)
19 Except as provided in (b) of this section, a person who is an elected official of a
20 political subdivision of the state and who, before July 1, 2021, has neither participated
21 in the plan nor waived participation in the plan becomes a member of the plan if

22 (1) the political subdivision has elected under AS 39.35.600 -
23 39.35.650 to designate elected officials in the classifications of employees entitled to
24 participate in the plan; and

25 (2) the elected official receives compensation from the political
26 subdivision for services as an elected official in the amount of at least \$2,001 a month.

27 (b) An elected official entitled to participate under this section, and who either
28 has no previous service under the system with the political subdivision or is retired
29 under the system, may file a waiver of participation in the plan with the administrator
30 within 30 days after the later of July 1, 2021, or the date that the elected official's term
31 of office begins. A waiver is irrevocable for the remainder of the elected official's

1 service as an elected official or employee of the political subdivision.

2 * **Sec. 16.** AS 39.35.160(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) **Except as provided in (e) of this section, beginning** [BEGINNING]
 4 January 1, 1987, each peace officer or firefighter shall contribute to the plan an
 5 amount equal to seven and one-half percent of the peace officer's or firefighter's
 6 compensation. Except as provided in (d) **and (e)** of this section, beginning January 1,
 7 1987, each other employee shall contribute to the plan an amount equal to six and
 8 three-quarters percent of the employee's compensation. [THE CONTRIBUTIONS
 9 SHALL BE DEDUCTED BY THE EMPLOYER AT THE END OF EACH
 10 PAYROLL PERIOD. THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE DEDUCTED FROM
 11 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION BEFORE COMPUTATION OF APPLICABLE
 12 FEDERAL TAXES, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE TREATED AS
 13 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER 26 U.S.C. 414(h)(2). A MEMBER MAY
 14 NOT HAVE THE OPTION OF MAKING THE PAYROLL DEDUCTION
 15 DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF HAVING THE CONTRIBUTION PICKED UP BY THE
 16 EMPLOYER.]

17 * **Sec. 17.** AS 39.35.160 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

18 (e) Except as provided in (d) of this section, an employee, including a peace
 19 officer or firefighter, who first participates in the plan after June 30, 2006, shall
 20 contribute to the plan an amount equal to eight percent of the employee's
 21 compensation.

22 (f) Contributions under (a) and (e) of this section shall be deducted by the
 23 employer at the end of each payroll period. The contributions shall be deducted from
 24 employee compensation before computation of applicable federal taxes, and the
 25 contributions shall be treated as employer contributions under 26 U.S.C. 414(h)(2). A
 26 member may not have the option of making the payroll deduction directly instead of
 27 having the contribution picked up by the employer.

28 * **Sec. 18.** AS 39.35.400(e) is amended to read:

29 (e) A disabled employee receiving a nonoccupational disability benefit shall
 30 provide the administrator, **within** one year after appointment to disability benefits and
 31 once **within** each year thereafter until disability benefits **are denied or** cease, **with**

1 proof that the disabled employee has applied [OF CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY] to
 2 receive disability payments under the Social Security Act. If the disabled employee is
 3 otherwise ineligible for a social security payment, the employee shall provide the
 4 administrator with sufficient medical evidence once each year to demonstrate that
 5 disability payments under the Social Security Act would be payable had the employee
 6 been otherwise eligible. If the disabled employee fails to provide the administrator
 7 with evidence of continuing eligibility for disability payments under the Social
 8 Security Act or other medical evidence required by the administrator within 30 days
 9 following each anniversary date, the disability benefits from the plan shall cease. If
 10 that information is subsequently provided to the administrator, benefit payments will
 11 resume beginning for the month following that in which the information is provided.
 12 When disability payments under the Social Security Act cease, it is the responsibility
 13 of the disabled employee to notify the administrator immediately.

14 * **Sec. 19.** AS 39.35.410 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (k) A person who first becomes an employee after June 30, 2006, and who is
 16 appointed to disability benefits shall, within 30 days after the date disability benefits
 17 commence, provide the administrator with proof that the employee has applied for
 18 enrollment in a vocational rehabilitation program approved by administrator. Unless
 19 the employee demonstrates cause, the benefits terminate at the end of the first month
 20 in which the employee

21 (1) fails to provide the administrator with the required proof of
 22 application for enrollment;

23 (2) is certified by the administrator as failing to enroll in or cooperate
 24 with a vocational rehabilitation program approved under this subsection;

25 (3) fails to interview for a job; or

26 (4) fails to accept a job offered.

27 * **Sec. 20.** AS 39.35.535(c) is amended to read:

28 (c) A benefit recipient may elect major medical insurance coverage in
 29 accordance with regulations and under the following conditions:

30 (1) a person who first became a member before July 1, 2006, or the
 31 surviving spouse of the person, other than a disabled member or a disabled member

1 who is appointed to normal retirement, must pay an amount equal to the full monthly
 2 group premium for retiree major medical insurance coverage if the person is

3 (A) younger than 60 years of age and has less than

4 (i) 25 years of credited service as a peace officer under
 5 AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370; or

6 (ii) 30 years of credited service under AS 39.35.360 and
 7 39.35.370 that is not service as a peace officer; or

8 (B) of any age and has less than 10 years of credited service;

9 (2) a person **who first became a member before July 1, 2006, or the**
 10 **surviving spouse of the person** is not required to make premium payments for retiree
 11 major medical **insurance** coverage if the person

12 (A) is a disabled member;

13 (B) is a disabled member who is appointed to normal
 14 retirement;

15 (C) is 60 years of age or older and has at least 10 years of
 16 credited service; or

17 (D) has at least

18 (i) 25 years of credited service as a peace officer under
 19 AS 39.35.360 and 39.35.370; or

20 (ii) 30 years of credited service under AS 39.35.360 and
 21 39.35.370 not as a peace officer;

22 **(3) a person who first becomes a member after June 30, 2006, or**
 23 **the surviving spouse of the person shall, except as provided in (4) and (5) of this**
 24 **subsection, pay an amount equal to the full monthly group premium for retiree**
 25 **major medical insurance coverage; however, except as provided in (4) and (5) of**
 26 **this subsection, if the member or surviving spouse is eligible for Medicare, the**
 27 **cost of a monthly premium is a percentage of the full monthly group premium, as**
 28 **follows:**

29 **(A) 30 percent if the member has 10 or more, but less than**
 30 **15, years of service;**

31 **(B) 25 percent if the member has 15 or more, but less than**

20, years of service;

(C) 20 percent if the member has 20 or more, but less than

25, years of service;

(D) 15 percent if the member has 25 or more, but less than

30, years of service not as a peace officer;

(4) except as provided in (5) of this subsection, a person who first becomes a member after June 30, 2006, or the surviving spouse of the person shall pay a monthly premium that is

(A) 15 percent of the cost of a full monthly group premium if the member has 25 or more, but less than 30, years of service as a peace officer; or

(B) 10 percent of the cost of a full monthly group premium if the member has 30 or more years of service;

(5) a person who first becomes a member after June 30, 2006, is not required to make premium payments for retiree major medical coverage if the person

(A) is a disabled member; or

(B) is a disabled member who is appointed to normal retirement;

(6) on or after July 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter, the administrator shall adjust the percentages under (3) and (4) of this subsection as needed to maintain, but not to exceed, over the succeeding five years, an employer normal cost rate for persons who first became members after June 30, 2006, and the surviving spouses of those persons that does not exceed the combined total of the rates under AS 39.35.750(a), (b), (d), and (e) minus the employer normal cost rate attributable to the persons who first became members after June 30, 2006, for benefits under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.530; an adjustment made under this paragraph shall remain in effect for five years; in making an adjustment under this paragraph, the administrator shall maintain the five percent differences between the percentages in (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subsection and the five percent differences between the percentages in (4)(A) and

1 **(B) of this subsection;**

2 **(7) when a member is appointed to retirement, the member**
 3 **obtains a vested right to the applicable percentage under (3) or (4) of this**
 4 **subsection, as adjusted under (6) of this subsection, that is in effect when the**
 5 **member is appointed to retirement; a member does not obtain a vested right to a**
 6 **percentage under (3) or (4) of this subsection, as adjusted under (6) of this**
 7 **subsection, before appointment to retirement.**

8 * **Sec. 21.** AS 39.35.620(k) is amended to read:

9 (k) Termination of an employer's participation in the plan does not bar future
 10 participation in the system by that employer if the employer is current with payments
 11 on amounts due under AS 39.35.625. [IF A PREVIOUSLY TERMINATED
 12 EMPLOYER RETURNS TO THE SYSTEM, THE EMPLOYER MAY ONLY
 13 PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990.
 14 EMPLOYEES MAY BE CREDITED UNDER AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990 ONLY
 15 WITH SERVICE SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF RETURN.]

16 * **Sec. 22.** AS 39.35.680(18) is amended to read:

17 (18) "employer" means

18 (A) the State of Alaska;

19 (B) a political subdivision or public organization of the state
 20 that participates in the plan based on a resolution to participate in the plan that
 21 was approved by the administrator [ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2006]; or

22 (C) a political subdivision or public organization of the state
 23 that, as a result of consolidation or reorganization [THAT OCCURS ON OR
 24 AFTER JULY 1, 2006], assumes liability under the plan of a political
 25 subdivision or public organization described in (B) of this paragraph;

26 * **Sec. 23.** AS 39.35.700 is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 39.35.700. Applicability of AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990.** The provisions of
 28 AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990 apply only to

29 **(1) members first hired on or after July 1, 2006, and before the**
 30 **effective date of this section who do not transfer to a defined benefit retirement**
 31 **plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 or AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680;**

1 **(2) public employees described in AS 39.35.720 who elect under**
 2 **that section to become** [TO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY
 3 EMPLOYERS THAT DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFINED BENEFIT
 4 RETIREMENT PLAN ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680, TO
 5 FORMER MEMBERS AS DEFINED IN AS 39.35.680, OR TO] members; **and**

6 **(3) members** who **transferred** [TRANSFER] into the defined
 7 contribution retirement plan under **former** AS 39.35.940.

8 * **Sec. 24.** AS 39.35.700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (b) A public organization as defined in AS 39.35.680 or a municipality or
 10 other political subdivision of the state that participates in the plan shall also participate
 11 in the defined benefit retirement plan under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680.

12 * **Sec. 25.** AS 39.35.720 is repealed and reenacted to read:

13 **Sec. 39.35.720. Retirement plan election option.** (a) A public employee who
 14 is first hired on or after the effective date of this section may make a one-time election
 15 to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under AS 39.35.700 -
 16 39.35.990 retroactive to the date of hire and may transfer to that plan employee
 17 contributions, if any, and employer contributions, if any, that have been made to the
 18 defined benefit retirement plan under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680. Before employer
 19 contributions are transferred under this subsection, the administrator shall recalculate
 20 them under AS 39.35.255.

21 (b) The election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan
 22 under (a) of this section must be made within 90 days after the date of hire and be
 23 made in writing on a form and in the manner prescribed by the administrator. Before
 24 accepting an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under
 25 AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990, the administrator shall, within 20 days after the
 26 administrator receives notice of the public employee's date of hire, provide the
 27 employee eligible to make an election to participate in the defined contribution
 28 retirement plan with

29 (1) information, including calculations to illustrate the effect of
 30 moving the employee's retirement plan from the defined benefit retirement plan to the
 31 defined contribution retirement plan; and

1 (2) other information clearly to inform the employee of the potential
2 consequences of the employee's election.

3 (c) An election made under (a) of this section to participate in the defined
4 contribution retirement plan is irrevocable. Retroactive to the date of hire, the
5 employee shall be enrolled in the defined contribution retirement plan under
6 AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990, the employee's participation in the plan shall be governed
7 by the provisions for the defined contribution retirement plan, and the employee's
8 participation in the defined benefit retirement plan under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680
9 shall terminate.

10 (d) When an employee makes an election under (a) of this section, the
11 administrator shall cause the total amount of the employee's employee and employer
12 contributions, with investment earnings and losses through the final day of the
13 employee's participation in the defined benefit retirement plan, to be actuarially
14 calculated and transferred to the employee's designated account in the defined
15 contribution retirement plan. The administrator shall establish transfer procedures by
16 regulation, but the actual transfer may not be later than 30 days after the date the
17 administrator receives the employee's completed election form under (b) of this
18 section, unless the major financial markets for securities available for a transfer are
19 seriously disrupted by an unforeseen event that also causes the suspension of trading
20 on any national securities exchange in the country where the securities were issued. In
21 that event, the 30-day period may be extended by a resolution of the board. Transfers
22 are not commissionable or subject to other fees and may be in the form of securities or
23 cash as determined by the board. Securities shall be valued on the date of receipt in the
24 employee's account.

25 (e) An election made under (a) of this section by an eligible employee who is
26 married may not take effect unless the election is signed by the employee's spouse. An
27 eligible employee whose accounts are subject to a qualified domestic relations order
28 may not make an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan
29 under this section unless the qualified domestic relations order is amended or vacated
30 and court-certified copies of the order are received by the administrator.

31 * **Sec. 26.** AS 39.35.890(j) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(j) A member who is appointed to disability benefits shall, within 30 days after the date disability benefits commence, provide the administrator with proof that the member has applied for enrollment in a vocational rehabilitation program approved by the administrator. Unless the member demonstrates cause, the benefits terminate at the end of the first month in which the member

(1) fails to provide the administrator with the required proof of application for enrollment;

(2) is certified by the administrator as failing to enroll in or cooperate with a vocational rehabilitation program approved under this subsection;

(3) fails to interview for a job; or

(4) fails to accept a job offered.

* **Sec. 27.** AS 14.25.012(c), 14.25.540; AS 39.35.940, and 39.35.957(b) are repealed.

* **Sec. 28.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

RETIREMENT PLAN ELECTION CHOICE. (a) A teacher who was first hired after June 30, 2006, and before the effective date of this section and who is a member of the defined contribution plan of the teachers' retirement system under AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590 may make a one-time election, within 90 days after the effective date of this section, to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 and to transfer all contributions, including employer contributions, that have been made or should be made to the defined contribution retirement plan for service the member completes before the effective date of the member's participation in the defined benefit retirement plan.

(b) A public employee who was first hired after June 30, 2006, and before the effective date of this section and who is a member of the defined contribution plan of the public employees' retirement system under AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990 may make a one-time election, within 90 days after the effective date of this section, to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680 and to transfer all contributions, including employer contributions, that have been made or should be made to the defined contribution retirement plan for any service the member completes before the effective date of the member's participation in the defined benefit retirement plan.

* **Sec. 29.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2 RETIREMENT PLAN ELECTION PROCEDURE. (a) An election made under sec.
3 28 of this Act to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under AS 14.25.009 -
4 14.25.220 or AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680 must be made in writing on one or more forms and in
5 the manner prescribed by the administrator. Before an eligible member makes an election
6 under sec. 28 of this Act, the administrator shall provide to the member

7 (1) written notice of the member's eligibility; and

8 (2) information about potential consequences of the member's election,
9 including calculations that illustrate the effect of changing the member's retirement plan from
10 the defined contribution retirement plan to the defined benefit retirement plan.

11 (b) An election made under sec. 28 of this Act to participate in the defined benefit
12 retirement plan is irrevocable. On the effective date of the election, an eligible member who
13 makes the election shall be enrolled as a member of the defined benefit retirement plan, the
14 member's participation in the plan shall be governed by the provisions for the defined benefit
15 retirement plan, and the member's participation in the defined contribution retirement plan
16 shall terminate. The member's enrollment in the defined benefit retirement plan shall be
17 effective retroactive to the date of hire. An election made by an eligible member who is
18 married is not effective unless the election is signed by the member's spouse.

19 (c) When an eligible member makes a one-time election under sec. 28 of this Act, the
20 administrator shall cause the total amount of the member's employee and employer
21 contributions, with investment earnings and losses through the final day of the member's
22 participation as a member in the defined contribution retirement plan, to be actuarially
23 calculated and, subject to (d) of this section, transferred to the pension fund in the defined
24 benefit retirement plan. On the effective date of the member's participation in the defined
25 benefit retirement plan, the member shall be credited with service in the defined benefit
26 retirement plan that is equal to the member's service in years, including fractional years,
27 recognized for computing benefits that may be due from the defined contribution retirement
28 plan. The board shall establish transfer procedures by regulation, but the actual transfer may
29 not be later than 30 days after the date the administrator receives the member's completed
30 election forms under (a) of this section, unless the major financial markets for securities
31 available for a transfer are seriously disrupted by an unforeseen event that also causes the

1 suspension of trading on any national securities exchange in the country where the securities
 2 were issued. In that event, the 30-day period may be extended by a resolution of the board.
 3 Transfers are not commissionable or subject to other fees and may be in the form of securities
 4 or cash as determined by the board. Securities shall be valued on the date of receipt in the
 5 member's account.

6 (d) If the value actuarially calculated under (c) of this section is insufficient to pay for
 7 a service credit equal to the member's actual service, the administrator shall allow the member
 8 to create an indebtedness up to the amount needed to eliminate the insufficiency; however, if
 9 that value exceeds the amount needed to pay for a service credit equal to the member's actual
 10 service, the administrator shall cause the excess to be paid to the employee as a rollover
 11 transfer to either an individual employee annuity account in the Department of Administration
 12 under the terms of AS 39.30.150 - 39.30.180 (State of Alaska Supplemental Annuity Plan) or,
 13 if the member's employer does not participate in the State of Alaska Supplemental Annuity
 14 Plan, to an eligible retirement plan as defined in AS 14.25.360(d) or AS 39.35.760(d). An
 15 excess under this subsection may not be used to purchase service credit in a retirement plan
 16 administered under AS 14.25 or AS 39.35.

17 (e) The provisions of this section are subject to the requirements of the Internal
 18 Revenue Code and the limitations under AS 14.25.010, 14.25.320(c) and (d), 14.25.490,
 19 AS 39.35.115, 39.35.678, 39.35.710(c) and (d), and 39.35.895.

20 (f) In this section,

21 (1) "administrator" means the commissioner of administration or the person
 22 designated by the commissioner of administration under AS 39.35.003 for a public
 23 employees' retirement plan and under AS 14.25.003 for a teachers' retirement plan;

24 (2) "board" means the Alaska Retirement Management Board established
 25 under AS 37.10.210;

26 (3) "defined benefit retirement plan" means the retirement plan established
 27 under

28 (A) AS 14.25.009 - 14.25.220 for a teacher; or

29 (B) AS 39.35.095 - 39.35.680 for a public employee;

30 (4) "defined contribution retirement plan" means the retirement plan
 31 established under

1 (A) AS 14.25.310 - 14.25.590 for a teacher; or

2 (B) AS 39.35.700 - 39.35.990 for a public employee;

3 (5) "Internal Revenue Code" has the meaning given in AS 39.35.990.

4 * **Sec. 30.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS. The commissioner of administration shall adopt
7 regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect
8 under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law
9 implemented by the regulation.

10 * **Sec. 31.** Sections 29 and 30 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

11 * **Sec. 32.** Except as provided in sec. 31 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2021.