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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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PERS Credit for Noncertificated Employees Sponsor Statement for CSHB 17

Alaska has many noncertificated employees in its schools who work nine, ten or eleven months out of the year along with their certificated counterparts. The certificated employees receive a full year credit for the part of the year they work while the noncertificated employee only get credit for the actual time worked. Because of this, a nine month employee has to work 40 years to receive a 30 year retirement.

This bill addresses the inequity in state law and PERS system by giving noncertificated school employees who work a comparable amount of days the option to use the same retirement formula that certificated employees use. This bill will allow those noncertificated school district employees to receive the same amount of credit toward retirement as those certificated employees who work the same amount of time and receive a full year of credit toward retirement.

The cost of changing the PERS system, under this bill, will be supported by the employees, rather than increasing the burden to school districts. Employees currently active in the system will have 180 days to opt into the new program. New employees will have the option to participate within 90 days of inception. That is within beginning employment within the system.

Thank you for your consideration.