IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO. 364

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska senior citizen employment team program and fund; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that the wealth of experience, expertise, and wisdom of older Alaskans constitutes a valuable state resource. It is the intent of the legislature that this resource be developed in order to address the needs and problems of Alaskans, to enable older Alaskans to earn a reasonable wage, and to improve the general welfare of the people of the state.

* Sec. 2. PURPOSE. This Act provides for the Alaska senior citizen employment team (ASCET) program of job training and full-time and part-time employment. The purpose of this Act is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate human, social, and environmental problems in Alaska by encouraging and enabling Alaska residents 55 years of age and older from all walks of life to perform meaningful and constructive service to their communities and to find employment with public and private employers.

* Sec. 3. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The Alaska senior citizen employment team program is established under the Older Alaskans Commission, Department of Administration (AS 44.21.200). The executive director of the Older Alaskans Commission is the director of the program.

* Sec. 4. FUND ESTABLISHED. (a) The Alaska senior citizen employment team fund is established in the Department of Administration and consists of money appropriated to it by the legislature.
(b) The fund shall be administered by the director for the following purposes:

(1) to reimburse participating employers for wages paid to an enrollee and expenses incurred on behalf of an enrollee under terms of this Act;

(2) to employ or contract for staff and services necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

* Sec. 5. ENROLLEES. The director shall recruit, select, and enroll Alaska residents 55 years of age and older to perform full-time and part-time service in eligible programs under sec. 6 of this Act. The director may provide for the short-term training necessary to make the most effective use of the skills and talents of enrollees.

* Sec. 6. CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ENROLLEES. (a) The director may contract for the employment of an enrollee by any employer in the state to accomplish a purpose of this Act. A contract under this section shall provide for the employment of an enrollee at a wage of not less than $5 an hour and may provide that an enrollee may work full time or part time, may share the job with another person, and may arrange to work on a "flex-time" basis. The contract may provide for on-the-job training or other job-related training to be given by the employer, with a guarantee of employment upon successful completion of the training. The contract shall require an employer of an enrollee to establish a procedure for an enrollee to present and obtain resolution of grievances with the employer concerning terms and conditions of employment. The procedure shall provide the enrollee with notice and the opportunity to be heard. The contract shall require the employer to pay the wages of the enrollee, to provide all employee benefits required by state and federal law, and to provide the enrollee with a written description of the duties to be performed by the enrollee. The contract shall specifically provide that the employer will
not discriminate with respect to the program because of age, race, creed,
color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, parental
status, physical disability, or political affiliation. The contract shall
provide that the enrollee may not be employed to displace an employee who
is not an enrollee. The director upon request shall provide an enrollee
employed under this program with a copy of the enrollee's contract of
employment.

(b) An employer is eligible to receive reimbursement of all or a por-
tion of the wages paid to an enrollee, and expenses authorized by the
director and incurred on behalf of an enrollee, in amounts specified in the
contract of employment and in a manner prescribed by regulations adopted by
the director.

(c) The director shall assign an enrollee to work in the community in
which the enrollee resides, or a nearby community, unless the enrollee
agrees to serve elsewhere in the state.

* Sec. 7. AUDIT. A program, nonprofit corporation, agency, or
business employing an enrollee under this Act is subject to audit by the
legislative audit division.

* Sec. 8. ANNUAL REPORT. The director shall submit to the legislature
each January a report of the activities of the Alaska senior citizen em-
ployment team program.

* Sec. 9. REGULATIONS. The director shall issue regulations necessary
to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

* Sec. 10. DEFINITIONS. In this Act,

(1) "director" means the executive director of the Older
Alaskans Commission (AS 44.21.200);

(2) "enrollee" means a person enrolled in the Alaska senior
citizen employment team program;

(3) "resident" means a person who for 12 consecutive months
immediately preceding enrollment in the Alaska senior citizen employment
team program has maintained a permanent place of abode in the state and has
continually maintained a voting residence in the state.

* Sec. 11. This Act is repealed June 30, 1988.

* Sec. 12. This Act takes effect July 1, 1983.