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ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

Legislative Alert, April 21, 2005

Senate Bill 141 (Public Emp. Retirement Reform)

SB 141 raises retirement costs for present employees and substitutes an inferior defined contribution retirement plan for new employees

As passed the Senate, SB 141 allows the PERS retirement system administrator to increase employee contribution rates for current state employees by up to 1/2% per year (currently 6.75%) until employee contributions fund one-half of the benefits expected to be earned by active members.

In addition to directly affecting current employees like you, SB 141 discards the retirement benefits for new public employees that encouraged many of you to make a career of state service. Under this bill, retirement benefits for new state employees are drastically reduced by substituting an inferior defined contribution plan that does not ensure any particular level of retirement benefit.

Medical retirement benefits for new state employees are also under attack. Only those who retire directly from the system will receive coverage under the plan. This "take it or leave it" approach to medical benefits decreases the appeal of state service to young professionals.

The House Finance Committee will hear this bill on Saturday, April 23, and will accept testimony between 1-3 p.m. Please take the time to testify on SB141--this is your opportunity to personally contact members of that committee and express your feelings about higher costs and fewer benefits for state employees.

HEARING: (H) FIN Apr 23 10:00 AM HOUSE FINANCE 519

Please CALL, WRITE, or EMAIL your representative on the House Finance Committee to encourage that body to NOT schedule, NOT hear, and NOT pass SB 141.

Send a Public Opinion Message to a legislator and check the current status of SB 141 from the ASEA Political Action Committee (PAC) pages.

<http://www.afscmelocal52.org/pac/sb141>

If you cannot testify at a hearing in person, please contact your local or regional Legislative Information Office (LIO) and arrange to testify by phone.

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/legaff/liolist.htm>

For more information, contact ASEA Information Officer Reber Stein at 463-4949 or (800) 478-0049 toll free