

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 37: PERS Credit for Injured Peace Officers and Firefighters

Under House Bill 37, peace officers and firefighters who are unable to work while recovering from job injuries will continue to earn credit and contributions toward their retirement. Peace officers and firefighters deliberately put themselves at risk for the rest of us, and we have a special duty to take care of them when they are hurt. They should not be penalized by delaying their retirement because they are recovering and unable to work.

Peace officers and firefighters will receive PERS credited service without charge when they are on leave without pay and receiving workers' compensation benefits, until the date they are eligible for retirement or begin receiving occupational disability benefits for total and permanent disability.

For individuals on the PERS defined contribution plan, the state will make contributions to their retirement account based on the sum of their salary earnings and their workers' compensation "spendable weekly wage" for the fiscal year.

I invite you to discuss this issue with me further and urge you to support this legislation.