



## ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

### *Letter of Support for HB 78: Defined Benefit Retirement*

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Representative Chuck Kopp  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capital Room 204  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Kopp,

On behalf of the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police, I am writing to express our unequivocal support for House Bill 78, "An Act relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska."

#### *Importance of HB 78*

This legislation is a crucial step forward in addressing long-standing concerns regarding retirement security and recruitment challenges within our public sector, particularly for peace officers and firefighters. By offering employees the choice between defined benefit and defined contribution plans, HB 78 provides much-needed flexibility to accommodate diverse financial and career planning needs.

#### *Enhancing Recruitment and Retention*

The Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police recognizes that the ability to attract and retain qualified law enforcement professionals is vital to the safety and well-being of our communities. The retirement options introduced by this bill are likely to enhance the appeal of public service careers, thereby strengthening our police forces and ensuring the highest standards of public safety.

#### *Financial Security for Public Servants*

The defined benefit plan offers a predictable and stable retirement income, which is particularly important for peace officers and firefighters who dedicate their careers to public service, often at great personal risk. By including provisions for employer contributions to retiree health reimbursement arrangements, HB 78 further ensures that our public servants have access to necessary healthcare in retirement, thus promoting their overall well-being.



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### *Fairness and Flexibility*

We commend the bill's provision allowing employees hired after June 30, 2006, an opportunity to transfer to the defined benefit plan. This flexibility acknowledges the evolving career landscapes and personal circumstances of our workforce, allowing them to make informed decisions that best suit their long-term financial goals.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police firmly believes that House Bill 78 represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to enhancing the retirement system for Alaska's public employees. We urge the legislature to pass this bill, thereby reinforcing our commitment to those who serve and protect our state.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter. We remain available for any further discussions or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Sean Case*

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