



Submitted by: Assembly Vice  
Chair Anna Brawley,  
Assembly Members Erin  
Baldwin Day and Zac  
Johnson and Mayor  
LaFrance

Prepared by: Legislative Services  
Office

For reading: March 24, 2026

## ANCHORAGE, ALASKA AR No. 2026-63

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT**  
2 **OF ALASKA HOUSE BILL 78, AN ACT RELATING TO A DEFINED BENEFIT**  
3 **RETIREMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND TEACHERS**  
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6 **WHEREAS**, House Bill 78 (HB 78), sponsored by Representative Chuck Kopp,  
7 would provide certain public employees the opportunity to choose between a  
8 defined benefit and defined contribution plan within the Alaska Public Employees'  
9 Retirement System (PERS) and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS); and  
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11 **WHEREAS**, recruitment and retention of qualified public employees, including  
12 police officers, firefighters, snowplow operators, public health professionals, and  
13 other critical municipal staff, remains one of the most significant operational and  
14 fiscal challenges facing the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA); and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, public employees often leave Alaska to work in other states that offer  
17 defined benefit pension options, creating additional recruitment challenges and  
18 workforce turnover in both municipal and state service; and  
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20 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality has at times experienced workforce shortages that  
21 increase overtime costs, reliance on contract labor, service disruptions, and long-  
22 term institutional instability; and  
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24 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality has consistently supported restoring defined benefit  
25 pension options for public employees and continues to be on record on this issue,  
26 most recently in the 2024, 2025, and 2026 approved Legislative Programs:  
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- 28 • 2024 Legislative Program, AR No. 2023-422, As Amended: The Assembly  
29 supported creating and funding a defined benefit retirement option for public  
30 employees, recognizing that retirement benefits were not keeping pace with  
31 private sector and Lower 48 public employers and that inadequate benefits  
32 were costing the Municipality millions of dollars annually in contract labor  
33 and workforce shortages.
- 34 • 2025 Legislative Program, AR No. 2024-350(S), As Amended: The  
35 Assembly identified restoration of defined benefit pensions for public  
36 employees as a top priority, necessary to improve the competitiveness of  
37 state and local governments as employers, and consistent with common  
38 practices in other states.

- 2026 Legislative Program, AR No. 2025-355(S): The Assembly specifically supported HB 78 and related legislation restoring defined benefit pensions for public employees, citing ongoing recruitment and retention challenges – particularly among police officers and firefighters – and the need to improve long-term workforce stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the current defined contribution retirement system fails to provide the long-term financial security necessary for many Alaskans to make careers in public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska’s chronic understaffing and turnover across critical public services, including law enforcement, fire response, education, and social services, stems in large part from inadequate retirement security; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 78 advances the policy priorities of the Municipality by restoring a defined benefit option within PERS and TRS while maintaining employee choice and managing financial risk to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, reinstating defined benefit pensions through legislation like HB 78 will strengthen workforce stability, improve retention of experienced employees, and better protect community safety and essential public services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

**Section 1.** The Municipality supports the passage of House Bill 78 and urges the Alaska State Legislature to enact this critical legislation restoring a defined benefit pension option for eligible public employees.

**Section 2.** The Legislative Services Office is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of the State of Alaska.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk