

State of Alaska
RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ADVISORY BOARD

Related to Coverage for Professional Ambulance Services Received Outside of the United States
under the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan

Resolution 2025-01

WHEREAS, the Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (Board) is authorized by Administrative Order No. 336 to facilitate engagement and coordination between the State of Alaska's retirement systems' members, the Alaska Retirement Management Board, and the Commissioner of Administration regarding the administration of the retiree health plan; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska retiree health care trusts provide health coverage through the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan (Plan) to retirees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, the Plan currently provides members with coverage for transportation to the nearest hospital by professional ambulance, specifically when received within the contiguous limits of the United States, Alaska, and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Division has contracted with a third-party vendor to administer benefits for eligible medical claims incurred and submitted by members outside of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Division may contract with a different third-party vendor in the future to provide similar services; and

WHEREAS, the Division has proposed to consider adding to the Plan the option to extend coverage to medically necessary professional ambulance services received outside of the United States, including ambulance transportation by ground or air, via fixed wing aircraft and/or helicopter, for patients with an emergent condition needing immediate medical attention, as defined in the AlaskaCare Retiree Insurance Information Booklet and outlined in detail in the Program Proposal presented to the Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board on July 21, 2025 (Program Proposal); and

WHEREAS, the Division has solicited public comments on the Program Proposal to consider adding medically necessary professional ambulance services received outside of the United States, which resulted in 100% of public comments in favor of implementation of the Program Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Program Proposal has been evaluated by an independent certified Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, who found that the proposed change would result in an enhancement to the Plan which would have a de minimis on the Plan's actuarial value; and

WHEREAS, the Program Proposal has been evaluated by an independent certified Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, who found that the proposed change is anticipated to result in approximately \$150,000 to \$300,000 in additional annual costs to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Division's analysis has included: evaluation of the need and rationale for the proposed change, data analysis based on actual experience, evaluation of the impact of the change to the current benefits; evaluation of any gaps, restrictions, reductions, eliminations, expansions, or additions to the current benefits; the number of members potentially impacted by changes and the seriousness of any impacts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ADVISORY BOARD recommends the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan adopt and implement coverage for medically necessary professional ambulance services received outside of the United States to the Plan's benefits as outlined in the Program Proposal submitted to the Board on July 21, 2025, to be effective January 1, 2026.

DATED this 6th day of October 2025.