

Bill intended to limit number of employees

From our Juneau Bureau

JUNEAU — Referring to it as the "3% Bill" Representative Dankworth, R-Anch., has introduced legislation in the Alaska State House of Representative that would hold the number of state employees to three percent of Alaska's population. Dankworth says the purpose of the bill is to "establish a mechanism for which the number of state employees bears a measurable relationship to the population of Alaska."

The bill gives the administration five years to make the adjustment appropriately through attrition and increase in population. According to Dankworth, "This will cause a levelling off without any drastic reduction to needed services."

Dankworth says that according to official estimates it is believed that the state has approximately 15,000 state employees for a total population of 400,000 or 3.9%. Dankworth's

bill would reduce the number of employees to 12,000 provided the population remains about the same. According to statistics the national average is about 1.75% with Alaska showing the highest ratio of state employees per population. Dankworth pro-

vided support for his bill saying, "As an example, the state of Maine with a population of 1,049,000 has 1,600 more employees than the State of Alaska. Their ratio of state employees is 1.59%. Montana, with almost 800,000 population, or twice

that of Alaska, has the same number of state employees as Alaska."

The bill provides for temporary employees necessary on a seasonal basis.

Dankworth says that he knows and believes that most Alaskans know that "the bureaucracy feeds on itself, with the legislators ambitions being the only limit to the burden the taxpayer must carry—this bill will force the administration and Commissioners to look carefully for dead wood and unnecessary positions within their departments if they want to expand new programs."

Dankworth says that when speaking with the Governor regarding any concept that would help reduce the size and cost of

the bureaucracy he received a favorable response.

Among the thirteen co-sponsors of the Bill are Representatives Nakak, D-Nome and Schaeffer, D-Kotzebue.

Introduced Friday, the bill has been referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.