

February 21, 2026

Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Committee:

Across Alaska, veteran organizations quietly do the work that keeps communities stronger, often without recognition and always without complaint. From maintaining local posts to supporting neighbors in need, that work depends on practical, common-sense laws.

Our VFW, American Legion and AMVETS Posts are more than meeting halls. They are places where veterans connect, support one another, and organize service projects that strengthen entire communities. From food drives and emergency assistance to mental health outreach and veteran rehabilitation programs, our work reaches far beyond our membership.

A critical part of how we sustain that work is through charitable gaming, a longstanding tradition at veteran posts throughout the state. However, our laws are not keeping pace with technology. Currently, 13 states allow the use of modern electronic pull tabs for veteran fundraising. We have seen firsthand how electronic pull tabs have pumped life into veteran organizations and the communities they serve. The results are extraordinary.

The funds generated through charitable gaming are essential to keeping many posts open. They help cover basic operating costs like insurance, utilities, and facility maintenance. Without those revenues, many posts would have to shut their doors. Electronic pull tabs will ensure generational sustainability by attracting new members and increasing engagement with existing members.

More importantly, through our veteran organizations, charitable gaming proceeds help support community health initiatives, provide assistance to under-resourced local programs, and fund veteran-focused therapeutic services, including programs that address mental health and post-service transition challenges. These are not abstract ideas; they are tangible efforts that improve lives across Alaska every day.

Charitable gaming also provides something less visible but just as important: connection. For many veterans, especially older or retired service members, these activities offer a sense of belonging and purpose. These social connections are accessible, social, and therapeutic, while also supporting the mission of their posts and their communities.

Authorization of electronic pull tabs is not an expansion of gaming. It is a modernization of an existing form of gaming, housed within the same regulatory framework and with the same restrictions. We support the same low stakes and low prizes that exist today with paper pull tabs.

Supporting veterans means more than thanking them for past service. It means removing unnecessary barriers that stand in the way of their continued contribution.

We ask that you stand with Alaska's veterans and support the modernization of charitable gaming by supporting electronic pull tab legislation. Electronic pull tabs will ensure several veteran organizations in Alaska can keep their doors open, our missions strong, and our commitment to service moving forward.

Thank you for your commitment to veterans and for your support of electronic pull tab legislation.

Sincerely,

Veterans of Foreign Wars

American Legion

AMVETS

Johnathon R. Hackett

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