



## FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**BILL NO.** CSHB129(FIN)

### Analysis

Under this bill family members or representatives (executors, etc.) of deceased veterans may each request one free certified copy of the veteran's death certificate. This bill would allow many members or representatives of the veteran's family to separately request a free death certificate.

This bill will reduce the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) program receipts/fees by an estimated \$75.0 in the first year, increasing each year to a projected loss of \$100.0 by Year 5. Because BVS relies substantially on fees to support its operating costs, any loss of these program receipts will have an immediate impact on staffing and quality of service to the public if not replaced by general funds. About 3% of the budget for BVS is GF (\$91.1). In contrast, 80% of the BVS budget comes from program receipts (GF/Pgm).

The Bureau estimates that initially 75% of veteran's families will be aware of the bill, increasing to nearly 100% over five years. About 30 percent (approximately 1000 deaths) of total deaths in Alaska per year indicate the decedent was a veteran. It is estimated that between three to five family members (or executors) will qualify for a death certificate at no charge (families have been known to request as many as 40 copies of a death certificate). Assuming 3 to 4 certificates per death, the impact to the Bureau is projected to be between 3,000 to 4,000 certificates issued at no charge annually. The fee for a death certificate is \$25. It is anticipated the impact would be comparatively less for the first few years and then increase as more families become aware of the new law.

The fiscal impact will be approximately \$75.0 for the first year the legislation is in effect ( $\$25 \times 3,000$  certified copies, assuming just 750 families will request on average four certificates each in the first year), increasing to \$100.0 by Year 5 ( $\$25 \times 4,000$  certified copies) as more people become aware of the new benefit provided by this law. The Bureau will experience a greater loss of revenue if this bill generates more than four requests per death, or if the number of decedents who are veterans exceeds 1000 in a year. If the current level of staffing and service to the public is to be maintained, these lost program receipts will have to be replaced with GF.