

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465- 3873 - Phone
(907) 465-3922 - Fax
Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us



Official Business

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone - (907) 465- 4453
Fax - (907) 465- 4523
Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement CS for SB 89

Senate Bill 89 would continue providing retirement benefits to the Alaska Territorial Guard veterans whose pensions were reduced by the federal government due to a new interpretation made by the U.S. Department of Defense. SB 89 provides for state funding of benefits beginning April 2009 and ending February, 28th 2010 or until the federal government resumes its full responsibility of the pensions. This funding is a temporary patch meant to give Alaska's Congressional Delegation the time they asked for to reverse the ATG pension reduction.

In January 2009, 26 World War II Alaska Territorial Guard veterans received letters from the U.S. Army Human Resources Command informing them that their pensions will be reduced on February 1st. The pension reduction is based on a legal interpretation that does not classify the time these men spent in the ATG during World War II as applicable toward retirement credit. The people of Alaska have overwhelmingly come out in support of our World War II veterans and believe they should receive their full retirement benefit for their honorable service.

SB 89 supports the honorable men and women of the Alaska Territorial Guard and enacts the overwhelming will of the people of Alaska by funding the difference in what the ATG pensions used to be and what they are now.