



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

Division of Administrative Services

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April 17, 2023

The Honorable Stanley Wright
Chair, House Military and Veterans Affairs
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Wright,

During the House Military and Veterans Affairs committee meeting on April 13, 2023, Representative Gray had a question that required follow up from DMVA. Question and the corresponding answer are below.

Representative Gray: Question regarding how retirement and benefits work for the Alaska Naval Militia.

Retirement and benefits for the Alaska Naval Militia are outlined in AS 26.05.224.

According to AS 26.05.224(a) an active member of the Alaska National Guard, or a former member who was an active member on or after January 1, 1969, or a member of the Alaska Naval Militia on or after July 1, 1980, is eligible for a retirement pension (1) upon voluntary retirement from the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Naval Militia after a total of 20 years or more of satisfactory service in the Alaska National Guard, Alaska Naval Militia, or the armed forces of the United States, and the reserves of them, or any combination of service in these components if at least five years of the service is in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Naval Militia; or (2) upon involuntary separation because of federal standards imposed on the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Naval Militia, regardless of length of service, unless the separation occurs as a result of the member's own misconduct, misrepresentation, or unwillingness to satisfy established standards for continued participation.

Per AS 26.05.224(b) The retirement pension is \$100 a month, payable for the same number of months that the member participated satisfactorily in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Naval Militia. The member may instead elect to receive the retirement pension (1) in a lump sum that is actuarially determined to be equal to the value, at the time of retirement, of the entire pension due; or (2) in a monthly amount that will result in payment by the member's 72nd birthday of an amount that is determined to be the actuarial equivalent of the entire pension due at the time of retirement. (c) An eligible member or former member may elect to receive the retirement pension beginning on the first day of the month in which the member or former member becomes eligible for retirement, or the member or former member may elect to defer payment to a later date. Payment of a deferred retirement benefit may not begin until application for the benefit is filed with and approved by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. Deferred retirement payments shall be made monthly at the rate of \$100 unless the member elects another form of payment under (b) of this section.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Ernisse".

Bob Ernisse

Administrative Services Director, DMVA
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