

SENATE BILL NO. 120

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TORGERSON

Introduced: 3/9/95

Referred: STA, FIN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the operation of state veterans' home facilities; and providing
2 for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. (a) In
5 1992, the legislature established the state veterans' home facilities program after finding that
6 (1) a large number of veterans reside in Alaska;
7 (2) there was no state veterans' home to meet the needs of these veterans; and
8 (3) under the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration State
9 Home Program in the United State Department of Veterans Affairs, funds were available to
10 help states establish state veterans' homes.

11 (b) The legislature further directed the Department of Administration to establish and
12 operate state veterans' homes in such a manner as to be eligible for the maximum amount of
13 federal funds for the homes. However, the state veterans' homes program was not eligible
14 to receive federal funds for the homes since the enabling legislation passed by the legislature

1 in 1992 provided only for "domiciliary care." To qualify for federal funding, the state
2 veterans' homes have to provide some nursing home care or related medical services.

3 (c) The purpose of this Act is to remove all reference to "domiciliary care" in order
4 to make the state veterans' homes program eligible to apply and receive the maximum amount
5 of federal funding available.

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.21.035(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) The Department of Administration shall apply for federal assistance to
8 establish and operate state veterans' home facilities [THAT PROVIDE DOMICILIARY
9 CARE]. The department, within available funds, shall establish and operate veterans'
10 homes at sites selected by the commissioner of administration after consultation with
11 the adjutant general and veterans' organizations.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.21.035(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) A person who resides in a veterans' [DOMICILIARY] home operated
14 under this section shall pay the Department of Administration a monthly charge
15 established by the department by regulation in payment of the cost of the care. The
16 charges shall be designed so that, when combined with federal or other nonstate
17 assistance that may be received on behalf of the residents, all costs of care are paid by
18 residents. The regulations may provide for exemptions or reductions based upon
19 hardship.

20 * **Sec. 4.** AS 44.21.035(c) is repealed.

21 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).