

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2002

Source
CSSJR 31(STA)

Legislative
Resolve No.
52



Urging the United States Congress to permit the use of tax exempt bonds to fund loans for veterans who served after 1976.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate home ownership by veterans, five states, Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin, have chosen to offer state veterans' home loan programs to resident veterans who have provided faithful service while in the U.S. armed forces; and

WHEREAS these programs have existed for many years and have assisted hundreds of thousands of veterans to obtain affordable housing and make better lives for themselves and their dependents; and

WHEREAS current law that governs the use of the tax-exempt bonds used to fund these loans, contained in 26 U.S.C. 143(l)(4) (Internal Revenue Code), limits these programs to only those veterans who served before 1977; and

WHEREAS thousands of men and women have provided faithful service to our nation after 1976, serving in peacetime as well as in hostile military confrontations in

locations such as Beirut, Grenada, Latin America, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Bosnia; and

WHEREAS these veterans and their families are being, without basis, denied under current law the opportunity to participate in these state veterans' home loan programs; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administers the qualified veterans' mortgage program funded with the proceeds of tax-exempt debt under existing federal authorization; and

WHEREAS, since 1983, the AHFC has issued \$2,100,000,000 in veterans' mortgage bonds and anticipates the benefit to a new group of veterans to be well over \$100,000,000 per year; and

WHEREAS the United States Congress is considering measures to extend the authorization to serve a new, large group of veterans that have served our country since 1977, but, unless the measures are enacted, the veterans' mortgage program will sunset due to a lack of eligible participants; and

WHEREAS Alaska has approximately 70,000 veterans who could potentially use the lower interest rates from this program toward home ownership;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the 107th United States Congress to support H.R. 959 and S. 615 to remove the portion of the Internal Revenue Code which restricts access to state veterans' home loan programs for veterans who served after 1976 so they and their families may enjoy the same benefits as their earlier counterparts.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.