

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 87(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 3/22/01

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council; and providing for an
2 effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 2. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.**

6 **Sec. 44.35.105. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.** There is created in the
7 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

8 **Sec. 44.35.110. Purpose.** The council shall advise the legislature, the
9 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and, through the governor, other
10 departments and agencies of the state on matters concerning state veterans, their
11 dependents, and their survivors.

12 **Sec. 44.35.120. Duties.** (a) The council shall annually make
13 recommendations to the legislature, governor, and Department of Military and
14 Veterans' Affairs concerning the needs of and benefits for the state's veterans, for

1 developing public and private partnerships to meet those needs, for providing
 2 information regarding veterans' benefits and services, for improving recognition of
 3 state veterans, and on other matters concerning state veterans, their dependents, and
 4 their survivors.

5 (b) The council shall hold meetings and establish committees and internal
 6 procedures as necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties. Meetings shall be held
 7 quarterly or less frequently as the council determines is appropriate. To the extent
 8 possible, the council shall use teleconferencing or other electronic means to minimize
 9 the costs of meeting and to maximize public participation.

10 **Sec. 44.35.130. Composition.** (a) The council consists of 21 members
 11 appointed as follows:

12 (1) 19 of the members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure
 13 of the governor; the governor's appointees shall include at least 15 veterans, with at
 14 least one each from three veterans organizations chartered by the United States
 15 Congress; the governor's appointees shall also include at least one person from a state
 16 agency that manages programs affecting veterans and at least one person from the
 17 general public who is familiar with veterans' issues;

18 (2) one member shall be a member of the senate appointed by and
 19 serving at the pleasure of the president of the senate;

20 (3) one member shall be a member of the house of representatives
 21 appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the speaker of the house.

22 (b) Members of the council who are not state officers or employees are
 23 appointed for staggered three-year terms and serve until a successor is appointed. A
 24 member appointed to fill a vacancy on the council serves for the remainder of the
 25 unexpired term of the member whose vacancy is being filled.

26 (c) The council shall elect a chair from among its members who are not state
 27 officers or employees.

28 **Sec. 44.35.140. Compensation, per diem, and expenses.** Members of the
 29 council who are not state officers or employees do not receive a salary, but are entitled
 30 to per diem and travel expenses as authorized for members of boards and commissions
 31 under AS 39.20.180.

1 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 REVISOR INSTRUCTIONS. In AS 44.35, the revisor of statutes shall

4 (1) designate a new article, entitled "Article 1. Department Functions,"
5 containing AS 44.35.010 - 44.35.040; and

6 (2) renumber existing AS 44.35.100 as 44.35.900, and designate a new
7 article, entitled "Article 3. General Provisions," containing AS 44.35.900.

8 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).