

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 55(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/11/02

Referred: Rules

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

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to housing and care needs of veterans; and providing for an effective**
2 **date."**

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

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

6 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

7 (1) federal standards do not currently allow for federal financial support of
8 Alaskan veterans in the Alaska Pioneers' Home;

9 (2) discussions are occurring between state and federal officials concerning
10 potential methods of providing federal financial assistance for services to veterans in this state
11 while continuing to preserve the essence of the Alaska Pioneers' Home concept;

12 (3) state and federal officials have agreed to work cooperatively to seek
13 solutions to the issues that exist regarding services for veterans, including, if needed, federal
14 legislation that would allow for federal support of veterans in the Alaska Pioneers' Home;

1 (4) part of the agreement between the officials concerns development of a
2 demonstration project that studies whether the needs of veterans can be adequately served in a
3 population like that of the Alaska Pioneers' Home that includes both veterans and
4 nonveterans.

5 (b) It is the legislature's intent, by authorizing and funding the survey described in
6 sec. 2 of this Act, to convey the legislature's concern about the needs of veterans who reside
7 in this state. The legislature strongly supports the negotiations that are continuing between
8 state and federal officials about the best alternatives for meeting the needs of this state's
9 veterans. The legislature urges the federal government to base a pilot program on veterans
10 who already live in the commingled population of the Alaska Pioneers' Home. Based on the
11 results of that pilot program and other negotiations, the legislature intends to entertain the
12 possibility of changing the name of the Alaska Pioneers' Home to include a reference to
13 veterans if federal assistance for their care in the home can be obtained.

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

16 SURVEY AND EVALUATION. Subject to the availability of an appropriation for
17 the purpose of this section, the Department of Administration shall survey and evaluate the
18 housing and care needs of all veterans in this state. The Department of Administration shall
19 report to the governor and the legislature on the results of the survey and evaluation not later
20 than the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State
21 Legislature.

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