

HOUSE BILL NO. 87

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/24/01

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

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 Department of Military
9 and Veterans' Affairs and, through the governor, other departments and agencies of the
10 state on matters concerning state veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

11 **Sec. 44.35.120. Duties.** (a) The council shall annually make
12 recommendations to the governor and the Department of Military and Veterans'
13 Affairs concerning the needs of and benefits for the state's veterans, for developing
14 public and private partnerships to meet those needs, for providing information

1 regarding veterans' benefits and services, for improving recognition of state veterans,
2 and on other matters concerning state veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

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

8 **Sec. 44.35.130. Composition.** (a) The council consists of 20 members who
9 are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The council shall include
10 one or more persons from a veterans organization, one or more persons from a state
11 agency that manages programs affecting veterans, and one or more persons from the
12 general public who are familiar with veterans' issues.

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

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

19 **Sec. 44.35.140. Compensation, per diem, and expenses.** Members of the
20 council receive no salary as a council member. Members of the council who are not
21 state officers or employees are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by
22 law for other boards and commissions.

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

25 REVISOR INSTRUCTIONS. In AS 44.35, the revisor of statutes is instructed to

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

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

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