

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 290(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/27/06

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HUGGINS, Elton

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act providing for the issuance of complimentary fishing and hunting licenses to**
2 **certain members of the Alaska National Guard returning from active duty deployment;**
3 **relating to reimbursement of premiums for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance paid**
4 **by members of the Alaska National Guard deployed to a combat zone; and providing for**
5 **an effective date."**

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

7 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05.335 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (b) The commissioner shall, at the request of the governor, authorize the
9 issuance, by the department or by agents appointed under AS 16.05.380, of a
10 complimentary license for sport fishing or hunting, or both, to qualified members of
11 the Alaska National Guard. To qualify for a complimentary license under this
12 subsection, a member of the Alaska National Guard must produce to the department or
13 agent the member's United States Department of Defense certificate of release or

1 discharge from active duty and the member's deployment orders demonstrating that
2 the member was called to active duty and deployed for 30 or more consecutive days
3 because of fighting in, or providing direct support for, a national conflict outside the
4 United States. However, a member who was so deployed for less than 30 consecutive
5 days due to an injury related to the member's deployment is qualified for the
6 complimentary license if the member provides documentation to verify that status.
7 The complimentary license for sport fishing or hunting, or both, is valid for the license
8 year in which the member is no longer in deployed status and returns to the state, or
9 for the subsequent license year. To receive the complimentary license under this
10 subsection, the member must apply to the commissioner requesting the license and
11 provide the information required by this subsection within two years after returning to
12 the state following deployment. Information pertaining to complimentary licenses
13 issued under this subsection shall be available to the public.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 26.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 **Sec. 26.05.263. Payment of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**
16 **premiums; establishment of fund.** (a) The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
17 premium fund is established as a separate fund in the state treasury. The fund consists
18 of appropriations by the legislature to it. Money appropriated to the fund does not
19 lapse. The state shall hold the principal and earnings of the fund for the purpose of
20 reimbursing eligible members of the Alaska National Guard deployed to a combat
21 zone for premiums paid under 38 U.S.C. 1965 - 1980 (Servicemembers' Group Life
22 Insurance Program).

23 (b) The adjutant general may make expenditures from the fund to reimburse
24 eligible members of the Alaska National Guard deployed to a combat zone for
25 premiums paid under the program if the eligible member applies for reimbursement
26 within two years after returning to the state following deployment.

27 (c) Subject to appropriation, the fund may be used to pay the expenses
28 incurred by the commissioner of revenue in managing the fund and administrative
29 expenses incurred by the Department of Revenue in administering this section.

30 (d) Except as provided in (c) of this section, money in the fund is available for
31 expenditure without further appropriation.

1 (e) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

2 (f) The Department of Revenue may adopt regulations necessary to carry out
3 the provisions of this section.

4 (g) In this section,

5 (1) "combat zone" means an area of hostile fire or imminent danger
6 that entitles a member on duty in that area to special pay;

7 (2) "fund" means the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premium
8 fund;

9 (3) "program" means the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
10 program established by 38 U.S.C. 1965 - 1980.

11 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 **APPLICABILITY.** The reimbursement of premiums paid by members of the Alaska
14 National Guard deployed to a combat zone under 38 U.S.C. 1965 - 1980 (Servicemembers'
15 Group Life Insurance Program) under AS 26.05.263, enacted in sec. 2 of this Act, applies to
16 premiums due on or after January 1, 2005.

17 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
18 read:

19 **RETROACTIVITY.** AS 26.05.263, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, is retroactive to
20 January 1, 2005, and applies to authorize reimbursement of premiums paid by eligible Alaska
21 National Guard members after December 31, 2004.

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