

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSHB 236(MLV)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/18/08
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Public Health
 Component: Bureau of Vital Statistics

ID(File name) HB236CS(MLV)-DHSS-BVS-12-19-07
 Title DECEASED VETERAN DEATH CERTIFICATE/HONOR
 Sponsor HOUSE (STA)
 Requester HOUSE (FIN)

Component No. 961

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)							

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	50.0		60.0	75.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
1037 GF/Mental Health							
1156 (Receipt Services)	(50.0)		(60.0)	(75.0)	(90.0)	(90.0)	(90.0)
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Under this bill family members or representatives (executors, etc.) of deceased veterans may each request one free copy of the veteran's certified death certificate. Because the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) relies substantially on fee revenues to cover its operating costs, any loss of these revenues will have an immediate impact on staffing and quality of service to the public if not replaced by general funds.

About 10% of the proposed FY09 budget for BVS is GF. In contrast, 65% of the BVS budget comes from Receipt Supported Services (RSS). Limited flexibility in the BVS budget compounds the problem of relying on fees for operating costs. (Continued on Page 2)

Prepared by: Beverly K. Wooley, Director
 Division: Public Health
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-3092
 Date/Time 12/04/2007
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**STATE OF ALASKA
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One-third of BVS's annual expenses are fixed costs for items such as lease space, telecommunications services and paper for certificates. Areas where there is some flexibility, such as travel, have been reduced in recent years due to "belt tightening" budget reductions and loss in buying power. Nearly two-thirds of the BVS budget covers personal services.

We project this bill will cost BVS \$50.0 in lost revenue in FY09, increasing to a loss of \$90.0 by FY12. The estimates are based on the \$20 fee for a certified copy of a death certificate and the approximately 900 deaths per year where the decedent was a veteran. Under this version of the bill, receipt of free copies is not restricted - each family member or representative may request one free copy but any number of family members or representatives may request a free copy. It is estimated that veteran's families and representatives will request, on average, five free copies (families have been known to request as many as 30 copies of a death certificate). The fiscal impact will be approximately \$50.0 for the first year the legislation is in effect (\$20 x 2,500 certified copies, assuming just 500 families will request five certificates each in the first year), increasing to \$90.0 by FY12 (\$20 x 4,500 certified copies) as more people become aware of the new benefit provided by this law. BVS will experience a greater loss of revenue if this bill generates more than five requests per death, or if the number of decedents who are veterans exceeds 900 in a year.

This projected loss of revenue to BVS appears in the Receipt Supported Services line and, if the current level of staffing and service to the public is to be maintained, this lost revenue will have to be replaced with GF. If new GF is not received to offset the lost revenue, the bureau will have to eliminate one position the first year this bill is in effect, and a second position within the subsequent one to two years. The loss of these positions will limit the bureau's ability to process requests for vital records in a timely manner by limiting the number of requests that can be processed daily. Previous experience has shown that when BVS is understaffed, the public can expect delays of up to eight weeks for processing vital record requests. At current staffing levels, the average turnaround time is two to three days.