

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 13, 2007

1:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bob Roses, Chair
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
Representative Anna Fairclough
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Representative Robert L. "Bob" Buch
Representative Scott Kawasaki

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Jay Ramras

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Andrea Doll

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

-HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 45

"An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain Alaska veterans' cemeteries; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund."

- HEARD AND HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 62

"An Act providing for partial tuition assistance for families of members of the Alaska National Guard; directing the adjutant general to seek additional funding to support tuition assistance; and providing for free hunting and sport fishing licenses for active members of the Alaska National Guard."

- MOVED CSHB 62(MLV) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 45

SHORT TITLE: STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY & FUND

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) GUTTENBERG, DOLL

01/16/07 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/5/07
01/16/07 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/07 (H) MLV, STA, FIN
02/13/07 (H) MLV AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124

BILL: HB 62

SHORT TITLE: TUITION WAIVER FOR NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) THOMAS, KERTTULA

01/16/07 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/5/07
01/16/07 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/07 (H) MLV, STA, FIN
02/13/07 (H) MLV AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124

WITNESS REGISTER

MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General/Commissioner
Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA)
Ft. Richardson, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented an overview of the Department of
Military & Veterans' Affairs and provided comments on HB 45.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID GUTTENBERG

Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 45 as a prime sponsor.

JOSEPH FIELDS,
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 45.

DANA KRAWCHUK, Staff
to Representative David Guttenberg
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions on HB 45.

PAT LUBY, Advocacy Director
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 45.

LISA PUSICH, State Accountant

Division of Finance
Department of Administration (DOA)
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Responded to a question regarding HB 45.

KACI SCHROEDER HOTCH, Staff
to Representative Bill Thomas
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 62 and Amendment 1 on behalf of Representative Thomas, a joint prime sponsor.

MARY GOWER, Director
Division of Enrollment Services
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 62 and answered questions.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR BOB ROSES called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at [1:05:38 PM](#). Representatives Dahlstrom, LeDoux, Kawasaki, Buch, and Roses were present at the call to order. Representative Fairclough arrived as the meeting was in progress. Representative Doll was also in attendance.

Presentation by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

CHAIR ROSES announced that the first order of business would be the presentation by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA).

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MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General/Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), informed the committee that the DMVA represents 4,400 Alaskans, most of who are affiliated with, the Army and Air National Guards, the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Office of Veterans' Affairs, the Alaska Military Youth Academy (Academy), and the Division of Administrative Services. He called the committee's attention to the DMVA 2006 Annual Report and the winter 2006/07 issue of WARRIORS magazine. Major General Campbell noted that both of these publications are printed at no cost to the state or federal government and are

current sources of information regarding activities of the DMVA's soldiers, airmen, and employees.

CHAIR ROSES recommended that members read the story on page 19 of WARRIORS magazine that features a former student of the Alaska Youth Academy.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL added that the Youth Academy can change a student's life and give a young person the skills to pursue his/her dreams. To begin his presentation, Major General Campbell spoke about the Alaska Army National Guard, which has evolved over the last four years from a scout group of 1,770 soldiers to a dynamic force that is meeting the needs of the U.S. across the world. By the end of 2007, there will be 1,400 Army National Guardsmen deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, or Afghanistan. Currently, 570 soldiers are stationed in Kuwait; 120 soldiers are stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan; and one noncommissioned officer and one officer are in Iraq, stationed to serve with the Mongolian force. Mongolia is one of America's strongest allies and its troops have served and trained with Alaska's soldiers. Major General Campbell further explained that the overseas deployment began with the Third Battalion, Charlie Company from Juneau followed by the First Battalion from Nome. Two aviation divisions, the Black Hawk helicopters and the C23 fixed-wing aircraft, have served one rotation. At this time, 170 soldiers are scheduled to deploy to Iraq this summer in addition to the embedded training teams that are already there. He emphasized that the Alaska Army National Guard has transformed from a home-based scout group into a combat ready organization.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL further described changes in the Army National Guard that was formed as a scout group during the Cold War to patrol the North and Northwestern borders. At the end of the Cold War, the guard became an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) which required teaming with bases in other states and territories. Now, Major General Campbell continued, the guard may become an exclusively Alaska Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. The Alaska Army National Guard is still changing to meet the needs of the U.S. and Alaska. He said the goal for the Army National Guard is to train troops for civilian jobs that fit state needs, such as law enforcement. Regarding missile defense, Major General Campbell remarked that Fort Greely is the only missile defense field in the U.S. and that it is manned solely by about 205 Alaska National Guardsmen. Turning to the

subject of recruitment, he noted that the guard currently has 1,950 members and will exceed its goal this year. The recruitment goal for 2008 is to have a force of 2,050 members. Major General Campbell stated that new recruits want to stay in Alaska and serve both the country and the state, and use the National Guard as a support for education and job training.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL spoke of the progress of new construction projects for the Army National Guard. The Juneau readiness center and the administration office in Auke Bay were completed in partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast recreation center, he related. The guard is now in the process of building an armory in Bethel, and a Nome readiness center will be completed soon; however, the five-year construction plan is behind schedule due to the diversion of funds to Afghanistan and Iraq.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL began his overview of Alaska Air National Guard activities by describing the relocation of Kulis Air National Guard Base to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. As a result of the Base Relocation and Closure Act (BRAC), the U.S. Air Force has arranged funding for the move. It was determined that federal funding in the amount of \$160 million is sufficient to create an Air National Guard Wing stationed on Elmendorf Air Force Base. One result of the move is that the guard will gain four C130 propeller transport aircraft and active duty personnel for support of the aircraft, plus additional C17 aircraft. Major General Campbell described the Air Guard's deployments as different than the Army's by the length of deployment and the location of its stations. Last year, the 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base was the lead agency for airlift out of Afghanistan. Combat search and rescue personnel were the first deployed after [the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001] to Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Aircraft tankers have been sent all around the world. The upcoming deployment of 30 to 40 Air National Guard soldiers for Military Police (MP) security forces in Iraq will involve the 176th Wing and the 168th Wing. Major General Campbell closed the presentation by assuring committee members that the movement of Kulis Air National Guard Base will not result in the loss of personnel. The Alaska Air National Guard will have a manpower reduction of about 100 positions; however, this reduction is based on a reallocation of positions to states with more than 100 percent recruitment.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX requested that Major General Campbell explain why recruitment in Alaska is not at 100 percent.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL explained that some of the Air National Guard's highly technical career fields compete with civilian jobs in the computer and medical industries. He said the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan is not a factor in recruitment difficulties.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX further inquired as to why competition for technical jobs would not be a problem for other states.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL further explained that demographics in states differ. For example, California has a problem recruiting in the San Francisco area where it must compete with job opportunities in the Silicon Valley. However, recruiting is not a problem in agricultural areas of California. In addition, many communities have cultural and traditional ties to service in the National Guard; therefore, recruiting is not difficult.

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REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked: "Do you think that originally the numbers that were set for your being at 100 percent, that there was something off with those numbers ... if you have never met them?"

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL informed the committee that the recruitment goals are assigned according to the number of aircraft. He continued the presentation by pointing out that the National Guard is attempting to tailor the guard to the needs of each state. The U.S. Air Force is in the process of reducing its force by about 40,000 personnel. If the National Air Guard can disperse positions throughout the U.S., it can absorb some of the displaced Air Force members and help meet the needs of the nation.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL related that the Mongolia and Alaska partnership is part of a program designed by the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense to encourage relationships with emerging democracies. Mongolia is similar to Alaska in terms of geography, dependency on natural resources and a rural geography with limited infrastructure. The partnership has extended to business and cultural activities. For example, the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce is pursuing a sister city relationship with Erdenet, Mongolia. This partnership benefits

the U.S. and Alaska in the areas of business, economics, and political affairs.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL reported that the DMVA Divisions of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) have merged with effective results. Assessment teams are evaluating businesses' security risks and good progress is being made with the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and others to enhance security. John Madden is the new director of DHS&EM and has been asked to bring the two entities closer together to eliminate duplication of services. Major General Campbell reported that last year Alaska had six major state disasters and in the future Alaska will need a combined effort to assist in weather disasters and emergency management. Environmental damage due to floods, erosion, wind, and sea storms is increasing. The structure of the disaster relief fund can be an obstacle to getting money to communities that need relief. Communities will need additional state support as federal funds for homeland security have been reduced from \$19 million to \$6.7 million. He noted that during the Hooper Bay fire, there was an exceptional response from state and local agencies and the state emergency responder. Within 48 hours teams were present and working with the private sector to provide housing and security. Also, in January 2007, the Tsunami notification system was found to be effective and coordination between agencies worked perfectly to serve residents.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL announced that in March, the Alaska Youth Academy (Academy) will graduate 156 students, its largest class to date. The State of Alaska supports the Academy through the public school education funding formula; however, the Academy repays for its cost by future savings in law enforcement, corrections, and incarceration. Over 95 percent of the students are successful in careers or in higher education after entering this voluntary program. Graduates are tracked informally for 1-2 years so that the results of their experience at the Academy are known. The Academy has been recognized for excellence in training, in mentorship, and in vocational education.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked whether students at the Academy are volunteers or are required to attend by court orders.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL explained that the attendance at the Academy is 100 percent voluntary. Prior to the academic term, applicants must complete a two-week long camp that serves to discourage students who may not want to commit to the vigorous requirements. Although an exit interview is conducted with students who withdraw during the five-month period, those who withdraw are not tracked for success after exiting.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL informed the committee that the Office of Veterans' Affairs is involved in Operation Stand Down, a program that is sponsored by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. He invited the committee to attend one of its events in support of veterans who are lost in the system. He also referred to the progress being made by the Veterans' Affairs Office in issuing Alaska Territorial Guard discharge certificates. Major General Campbell spoke of the history between the federal government and the Alaska National Guard. The National Guard was established in 1636 by communities and villages for protection. This organization evolved to become a militia and was recognized in the Constitution of the United States. The National Guard, though organized separately, can be activated at the direction of the President if an additional military force is needed in a crisis. After Hurricane Katrina, the federal law was changed to allow the activation of the National Guard in a state emergency by the President, without the consent of the state's governor. He urged the committee to be aware of this issue and the potential negative impact on Alaska. In conclusion, Major General Campbell informed the committee that his future strategic plans will include the changes needed for the DMVA to provide better service to the State of Alaska. He said he will ensure that the structure of support for emergencies will be properly utilized and will serve Alaska. He relayed that he will soon release a new Strategic Plan that will properly implement BRAC, consider expanding the Academy, complete plans for a Mongolian business tour, and complete the transfer of Clear Air Force Station to Fort Greely.

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REPRESENTATIVE BUCH praised the DMVA for its service in the search and rescue of civilians.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL, in response to comments, described the close relationship of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska

National Guard for rescue missions, and affirmed that Alaska provides excellent opportunities for search and rescue training.

HB 45-STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY & FUND

2:03:59 PM

CHAIR ROSES announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 45, "An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain Alaska veterans' cemeteries; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund."

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REPRESENTATIVE DAVID GUTTENBERG, Alaska State Legislature, joint prime sponsor, described his conversation with a constituent, the widow of a veteran, who voiced her unhappiness at the absence of a U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) cemetery in Fairbanks. Representative Guttenberg said that while exploring the possibility of establishing a VA cemetery in Fairbanks, he determined that Fairbanks is not eligible for a national cemetery but is eligible to apply for the VA State Cemetery Grants Program (grant program). This legislation, similar to legislation last year, will create the procedure that allows a community to apply to VA for a VA cemetery through the grant program. The restrictions and structure for administrating the program will come from federal VA funds. There is a great deal of support for HB 45 from veterans and service organizations around the state.

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JOSEPH FIELDS began by clarifying that although he is vice chair of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council (A.V.A.C.) he is speaking on his own behalf. He informed the committee of the increasing need for a VA cemetery, due to the aging veteran population and present deployment of troops. He mentioned that HB 45 addresses problems brought out last year. Mr. Fields encouraged the swift passage of HB 45.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG recalled that one of the concerns Mr. Fields voiced about last year's version of HB 45 was that funds for it would be diverted from other VA benefit programs. In 2005, the national director of the grant program assured A.V.A.C that other VA benefits will not be reduced.

CHAIR ROSES asked: "Are [the federal funds] required to be passed through the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs of the state?"

REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG related his understanding that funds would come to the state as a grant from the VA and then would be disbursed as state appropriations for construction and burial costs.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM indicated that she has not been able to complete her research on the bill and asked if Representative Guttenberg has met with Major General Campbell, or others, to organize the details of the grant process and financing. Although there is support for the bill, details of the financing need to be worked out in a subcommittee, or before further action on the bill.

DANA KRAWCHUK, Staff to Representative David Guttenberg, Alaska State Legislature, testified that the basis of HB 45 is to allow the state to apply to the grant program and if granted, create the regulations for implementation. The grant program pays for 100 percent of construction and operation, however, the state is responsible for the cost of yearly maintenance and operating staff.

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REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG recalled that during the creation of the bill his office consulted Jerry Beale, State Veterans Administrator, Department of Military, and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) regarding the administration of funds.

REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM inquired as to which agency at the DMVA would be responsible for funding.

MS. KRAWCHUK identified Mr. Beale as the point of contact for information; however, she mentioned that Representative Guttenberg's staff had not spoken to Major General Campbell about the bill.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM asked what exact position Mr. Beale holds. She then highlighted the importance of following the correct disbursement procedures for federal funding and

recommended sponsors of the bill avoid potential problems by meeting with Major General Campbell and others.

MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General/Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), confirmed that Jerry Beale is the DMVA State Veterans' Administrator. At this time there are no state veterans' cemeteries; however, he assured the committee that Mr. Beale is the appropriate and proper staff person to represent the state and coordinate the grant program. He also noted that at the time the legislature considers action on the state veterans' cemetery, his office and the governors' legislative liaison should be involved. He said that although he has not been asked to take an official position for the DMVA and he would like to review the proposed legislation.

CHAIR ROSES asked the presenters if funding can be provided only for a separate cemetery or if the veterans' cemetery can be part of an existing municipal cemetery.

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REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH pointed out that the regulations specify that the grant application must be for a "stand-alone" cemetery, not to be combined with an existing cemetery.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked Representative Guttenberg to clarify whether or not the bill specifies that the location of the veterans' cemetery will be in Fairbanks.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG replied that the result of one of last year's amendments was that any community meeting the criteria can apply; however, Fairbanks is the only Alaska community that currently meets the demographic criteria of the grant program. He continued to explain that one of the criterion for approval of national veterans' cemeteries is decided by demographics; therefore Alaska, with existing cemeteries at Fort Richardson and in Sitka, would not be eligible for another national veterans' cemetery until the Alaska veteran population increases.

REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH referred to the letter of support from AARP specifying the location of the cemetery to be in Fairbanks. However, she related her understanding that

While people are supporting [a cemetery] in Fairbanks and that might be the only community that federally

meets the definition requirements that is not what this bill does. This bill sets up a framework for money to start accumulating so that we could pursue at a particular point in time a cemetery at a location that we would choose in the future.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG replied:

No, ... it simply allows the [DMVA]to apply for a grant and whether they are eligible or not ... it sets up a fund [in the general fund] but there is no money in it until the grant process happens and the VA sends the money in and that is where it would go to construct a cemetery.

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REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH noted that the document contains an income date of July 1, 2007, and asked if an effective date for the acceptance of donations is needed. She also expressed her support of the inclusion of AS 37.05.590(c) [which ensures funds allocated will not lapse]. She then asked if monies in the general fund are invested for a short-term or a long-term return. Representative Fairclough then expressed her concern about AS 26.10.030, which allows the acceptance of gifts to the veterans' cemetery fund. She called the committee's attention to the possibility of a gift of land, for example, that bears costs and liabilities. The bill cites state code, but does not set out a procurement process. A gift and gift acceptance policy would be a benefit to the state and [may prevent] an unseen liability.

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REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG informed the committee that the federal VA guidelines address the question of the available land for the project grant. He quoted from the VA guidelines the following:

Suitable land should be easily accessible by roads, free of limitations such as rocks, steep slope, and wetlands, uncompromised by incompatible land use nearby, appropriate for cemetery use. Land use already owned by the state, municipality, or county is usually best, the state must have title to the land ... analyze possible negative, environmental, and historic preservation impacts.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG concluded that the land issues will be addressed by the terms of the grant program, and in response to a question, confirmed that the state would designate the land prior to the application of the grant.

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REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH explained that she is questioning, not the federal guidelines on the suitability of the land, but state statute regarding gifts of land and whether the statute requires the investigation of possible liability issues. She continued to say that the State of Alaska should have a process to limit liability in accepting a gift. This bill, she maintained, creates a framework for accepting cash and alternate revenue streams for additional donations, similar to the Division of Motor Vehicles commemorative license plates. She suggested the committee might consider ways to limit the state's liability in accepting gifts rather than eliminating the donation clause.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX noted that word in AS 44.35.035(b) "may" takes away the obligation of accepting a gift.

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REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH said: "The issue is does the State of Alaska have a gift acceptance policy? At least on the citation in this particular bill before us that particular statute citation does not include the policy, it just says we'll take gifts."

REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM recommended that the committee research the state's established policy for receiving gifts.

[2:29:17 PM](#)

PAT LUBY, Advocacy Director, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and an Alaska veteran, informed the committee that AARP has submitted a letter in support of HB 45. He said that burial in a veterans' cemetery is the last chance for the U.S. to recognize the service of veterans and their families. Passage of this bill gives thousands of veterans throughout state, who are not living in Sitka and Anchorage, the opportunity to be honored in a local cemetery.

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LISA PUSICH, State Accountant, Division of Finance Department of Administration, responding to a question from the committee, stated that she would investigate the state policy regarding the acceptance of gifts.

REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM recommended that members send the bill to a subcommittee or request that the sponsor research answers to the questions raised by the committee.

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REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG offered to provide the committee with answers to the many questions. Also, in response to a question, he stated that the amendments from last year have been incorporated into HB 45.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL assured the committee that DMVA is the proper department to assist the sponsors of the bill.

CHAIR ROSES indicated HB 45 would be held over.

HB 62-TUITION WAIVER FOR NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY

2:34:26 PM

CHAIR ROSES announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 62, "An Act providing for partial tuition assistance for families of members of the Alaska National Guard; directing the adjutant general to seek additional funding to support tuition assistance; and providing for free hunting and sport fishing licenses for active members of the Alaska National Guard."

KACI SCHROEDER HOTCH, Staff to Representative Bill Thomas, Alaska State Legislature, presented HB 62 and an amendment labeled 25-LS0303\A.1, Mischel, 2/1/07 on behalf of the joint prime sponsors Representatives Thomas, and Kerttula. She informed the committee that HB 62 consists of three parts. The bill first grants active National Guard members free hunting and fishing licenses to thank members for their service to the State of Alaska and to serve as an important recruiting tool for the Alaska National Guard. Ms. Hotch continued to explain that the second part grants a 50 percent waiver of University of Alaska (UA) tuition to spouses of National Guard members. This waiver, she added, will serve as an important retainment tool and will also recognize the commitment of service from guard families. The third part of HB 62 concerns funding the current tuition

waiver program for guard members and additional funding for spousal tuition waivers. Additional funds will be obtained by authorizing the Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) to request supplemental appropriations.

[2:37:17 PM](#)

CHAIR ROSES asked if the tuition waiver program accrues administrative costs charged by the Department of Administration (DOA) and/or the University of Alaska.

MS. HOTCH said she believes that the University of Alaska has submitted a zero fiscal note to be attached to HB 62 and DMVA has submitted a fiscal note indicating its costs.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL, in response to questions, explained that the DMVA does not extract fees, but it will accrue costs for administering and processing applications. He pointed out that supplemental funding requests which are submitted to the Alaska State Legislature are not always appropriated, and furthermore, the existing program is not always fully funded. He also indicated, in response to a question, that he could not comment on a change in policy that would transfer the administration of the program from the DMVA to the University of Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM recalled a previous House Finance subcommittee meeting in which members were advised that the funding for this program is short every year by approximately \$60,000. She said she is supportive of the present program which is managed by the DMVA.

[2:44:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE BUCH requested clarification as to whether spouses and members of the family or just spouses would receive tuition waivers under HB 62.

CHAIR ROSES answered the question by stating that the amendment labeled 25-LS0303\A.1, MISCHER, 2/1/07, limits tuition waiver to spouses only.

[2:45:06 PM](#)

MARY GOWER, Director of Enrollment Services, University of Alaska, informed the committee that UA does not extract administrative fees from the current program and that it supports HB 62 and has submitted a zero fiscal note. She said

she could not comment on the possibility of transferring the administration of the program from DMVA to UA, or if UA would support a reduction in the tuition rate.

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REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX moved to report HB 62 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

[2:47:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI objected for discussion purposes. [Although not formally stated, the committee treated the motion as withdrawn.]

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI moved that the committee adopt Amendment 1, labeled 25-LS0303\A.1, Mischel, 2/1/07, which read:

Page 1, line 1:
Delete "**families**"
Insert "**spouses**"

Page 3, line 5:
Delete "or child"

[2:49:00 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX moved to report HB 62, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHB 62(MLV) was reported from the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.