

Introduced: 5/8/81
Referred: State Affairs and Finance

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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 556

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Veterans Committee as a
7 permanent interim committee of the legislature; and
8 providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 24.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 ARTICLE 5. VETERANS COMMITTEE.

12 Sec. 24.20.571. VETERANS COMMITTEE. (a) The Veterans Committee
13 is established as a permanent interim committee of the legislature.
14 The establishment of the committee recognizes the need for continuing
15 consideration by the legislature of matters concerning veterans.

16 (b) The Veterans Committee is composed of three members of the
17 house appointed by the speaker of the house and three members of the
18 senate appointed by the president of the senate. The committee elects
19 a presiding officer from among its members.

20 (c) When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Veterans
21 Committee, the presiding officer of the appropriate house shall appoint
22 a successor. If the office of the president of the senate or speaker
23 of the house of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy from the
24 affected house occurs among the membership of the committee, the remain-
25 ing committee members from the appropriate house shall appoint a new
26 member.

27 (d) The Veterans Committee shall be organized within 15 days
28 after the organization of each legislature. Members serve for the
29 duration of the legislature during which they are appointed. If they

1 are reelected or their term of office extends into the next succeeding
2 legislature, they continue to serve until reappointed or the appointment
3 of their successor.

4 (e) The Veterans Committee may meet during sessions of the legis-
5 lature and during the interim between sessions at such times and places
6 in the state as the presiding officer may determine. Members may
7 receive, for the minimum time required to get to and from meetings and
8 for the period while attending meetings, the same travel and per diem
9 allowances provided by law for members of the legislature when attending
10 sessions, except that members of the committee receive no per diem
11 during legislative sessions other than the per diem allowance paid to
12 other members of the legislature.

13 (f) The Legislative Affairs Agency shall provide the committee
14 with professional and clerical assistance under the auspices of the
15 Legislative Council.

16 Sec. 24.20.575. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE. The Veterans Committee
17 shall

- 18 (1) review the operation of veterans programs in the state;
19 (2) review veterans benefits available to state veterans
20 from the federal and state governments;
21 (3) review veterans legislation from other jurisdictions;
22 and
23 (4) recommend legislation on matters pertaining to veterans
24 to the legislature.

25 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-
26 070(c).