

HB

17

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE BOUCHER

NAME: BOBBY WILLIAMS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 104525

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99510

PHONE: 258-5446

BILL NO: HB 17

SUBJECT: APPROP: STUDY FOR VETERANS' HOME

MESSAGE: AND THE CALL FROM DENNIS BURNS; THE COMPLETED FEASIBILITY STUDY IS FOUR INCHES THICK. THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION DENNIS IS OBVIOUS. THE STUDY CONCLUDES THAT DUE TO ALASKA'S UNIQUE PIONEER HOMES THERE IS NO NEED FOR A VETERANS' STATE HOME. THOSE STATE HOMES ARE EXACTLY LIKE PIONEER HOMES EXCEPT THE VETERAN DOES NOT NEED TO LIVE IN THE STATE 15 YEARS PRIOR.

POMID: 03164346

DATE: 03/03/89

TIME: 16:43:46

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

REP. TERRY MARTIN

ELECTIVE DISTRICT 13
MOUNTAIN VIEW
RUSSIAN JACK SPRINGS
NUMAKA VALLEY
ELMENDORF A.F.B.
CREEKSIDE
EAST ANCHORAGE



HOME
3960 REKA DRIVE-BG
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508
PHONE 333-6990

DURING SESSION
P. O. BOX V
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, AK 99811
PHONE 465-3783

Alaska House of Representatives

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 27, 1989
TO: Representative Red Boucher, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
FROM: Representative Terry Martin *T.M.*
SUBJ: HB 17 - APPROP: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR VETERANS HOME

I recently received the attached personal opinion message from Ms. Loree Wiltse and Mr. Bobby Williams concerning HB 17 - Approp: Feasibility Study for Veterans Home.

During the interim I had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Wiltse concerning the Veterans Home project. Ms. Wiltse is adamantly opposed to funding a study because according to her, a very comprehensive study had already been conducted with private funds.

I asked Ms. Wiltse if she would mind sharing a copy of this report with me. To date, I have not received a copy of the study.

Perhaps, if you, in your capacity as Chairman of the House State Affairs Committee, could ask Ms. Wiltse or Mr. Williams to forward a copy of this study for the consideration of the committee she might be more inclined to do so, assuming such a study exists.

Thank you for your assistance.

/laj
attachment

cc: Dr. Jack Shields, Director
Division of Military and Veterans Affairs

Mr. Jerry Herrington

786-8265
Veterans Admin
Veterans Service
COMMISSION

276-3679
Lori Wertz
276-3679
Vet Training Hotel
JUNEAU



PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN

NAME: BOBBY WILLIAMS
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104525
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99510
PHONE: 258-5446

BILL NO: HB 17

SUBJECT: APPROP: STUDY FOR VETERANS' HOME

MESSAGE: HOW OFTEN DO YOU FEEL FEASIBILITY AND NEED STUDIES REGARDING A VETERAN'S HOME NEED BE COMPLETED? ONE WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED BY INTERESTED VETERANS AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. WHY WOULD THE STATE IN THIS ECONOMY WANT TO REDO THIS PARTICULAR STUDY? WHY NOT LET THE PRIVATE SECTOR PAY FOR THEIR OWN STUDY IF THEY WISH TO DO ANOTHER ONE.

POMID: 03111239

DATE: 02/24/89

TIME: 11:12:39

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

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SWACKHAMMER	TAYLOR	SZYMANSKI
ULMER	WALLIS	UEHLING
ZAWACKI		ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN

NAME: LORZE WILTSE
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 101688
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99510
PHONE: 276-1394
BILL NO: HD 17
SUBJECT: APPROP: STUDY FOR VETERANS' HOME
MESSAGE: WHY WASTE STATE MONEY ON A STUDY THAT HAS ALREADY BE COMPLETED AND PAID FOR BY PRIVATE FUNDS. THIS IS AN UNNECESSARY USE OF STATE MONEY. PEOPLE WHO WANT THE STUDY RESULTS PAY FOR THEM THEMSELVES. WHY RE-STUDY SOMETHING THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.

FORMID: 03081350
DATE: 02/20/69
TIME: 08:13:50
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

Here Committee chair call and ask if she would slow the study.

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*JACK shields
Dir Def 260101
249-1241*



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Official Business

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. H.A. "Red" Boucher
Chair, House State Affairs
Committee

From: Rep. Max F. Gruenberg, Jr. *Max*

Re: HB 17, Veterans' Home Study Appropriation

Attached please find a packet of materials from a constituent, Jim Thaman. I request these materials be inserted in each member's bill packet. I would also request that Mr. Thaman be invited to testify by teleconference when the hearing on HB 17 is held. His address and telephone number are: 2206 Rcmig Pl., Anchorage 99503; 279-9822.

Attachment

cc: Jim Thaman

RECEIVED
FEB 22 1989



February 10, 1989

Representative Max Gruenberg
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau AK 99801

Re: HB 17, Veteran's Home

Per our telephone conversation of February 9, 1989, I am pleased to provide you with the following packet of information on the above. Please provide copies to your fellow committee members Representative Maffra and Hudson.

Included in the packet is Resolution B-7-13, The American Legion, Department of Alaska, Jack Henry Post #1 has been instrumental in this resolution from formulation to it's passing at the 68th Annual Convention held in Sitka, June 17 to 20, 1987, and heartily endorse action on this issue.

As a concerned veteran and constituent, I would be honored to be of any assistance whatsoever to you in this matter. I can be reached at my home address of 2208 Romig, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503, or phone 279-9822 - feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

Jim Thaman
Jim Thaman
Commander, 1988-1989

JT:bmt

 FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO
 TO: REP. MAX GRUENBERG
 DEPT: _____ FAX #: _____
 FROM: J. THAMAN PHONE: 279-9822
 CO: Am. Legion FAX #: _____
 Post-It brand fax transmittal memo 767

NO. OF PAGES
16

Introduced: 1/9/89
Referred: State Affairs and
Finance

6-0068A

<u>Funding Information</u>	
General Fund	\$ 50,000
Other Funds	- 0 -
	<u>\$ 50,000</u>

BY MARTIN, GRJENBERG
AND HUDSON

1 IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO. 17

2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

3

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

4

A BILL

5

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Depart-
7 ment of Military and Veterans' Affairs for a study
8 related to establishing a veterans' home; and provid-
9 ing for an effective date."

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

11 * Section 1. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund
12 to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to study the feasibility
13 of establishing a veterans' home in the state.

14 * Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation
15 made by this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1990.

16 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.

THE AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

68TH ANNUAL CONVENTION - SITKA, ALASKA

June 17 - 20, 1987

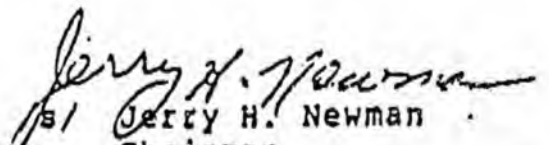
RESOLUTION 87-13

WHEREAS, The American Legion has determined that there is a critical need for a Veteran's home in Alaska to house homeless Veterans and their families, and

WHEREAS, No such facility now exists, and,

WHEREAS, The geographical location of such a facility should be centrally located to the majority of said Veterans and for ease of accessibility to quality medical and other related facilities, as well as general population support services and in recognition of the fact that there are more veterans in the State of Alaska, per capita, than any other state in the union, now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Legion, Department of Alaska, assembled in Convention At Sitka, Alaska June 17, 18, 19 20 June 1987 that The American Legion, with the support of all veterans organizations and their affiliates (Auxiliaries, etc.); and with the support of State residents, veterans and non-veterans alike; will take action to motivate City, State and Federal Agencies to bring about such a Veteran's home.


/s/ Jerry H. Newman
Chairman
Resolutions Committee

/s/ Leo J. McLean
Department Commander



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801

May 2, 1988

RECEIVED

MAY 11 1988

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The President
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

Central Council is very pleased to forward our General Assembly Resolution 88/89-06, Seek Veterans' Housing Assistance. The General Assembly of Central Council represents 16,000 Tlingit and Haida Tribal Members located in Southeast Alaska, in the Anchorage Alaska area and in the Seattle and San Francisco areas.

The Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska have been very proud of their Armed Services records during the second World War, Korean War, and the Vietnam confrontation. The villages had a reputation for loyalty to the United States in time of need.

We would appreciate the consideration due this request, and welcome any support your office is able to render. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Edward K. Thomas
President

EKT/vh
Enclosure

218

cc: Ted Stevens
Frank Murkowski
Donald Young
Governor Steve Cowper ✓
Grand Camp ANB and ANS
Sealaska Corporation
State Legislators



CENTRAL COUNCIL

TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING

320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801

FIFTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
April 21-23, 1988
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution 88/89-06

Title: Seek Veterans' Housing Assistance

Submitted by: Anchorage T&H Community Council

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government and the State of Alaska have 68,000 Alaskan Veterans who have served their country with honor and dignity while risking their lives and have changed the course of history; and

WHEREAS, some of these Veterans are disabled and are getting on into the golden years of their lives (14,000 World War II Veterans) and a few are unable to care for themselves or are experiencing housing difficulties; and

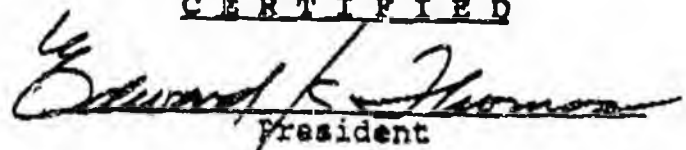
WHEREAS, the U.S. Government has assisted 43 institutions in 35 States to build Veterans' homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska assembled in Juneau, Alaska, on this 23rd of April, use whatever means necessary to obtain a Veteran Home(s) for the Alaskan Veterans so those who qualify can spend their last days in peace and dignity; and

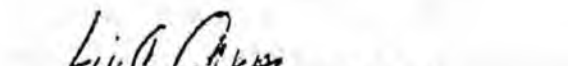
AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED copies of this resolution be distributed to President Reagan of the United States, Alaska Congressman Young, Senators Murkowski and Stevens, Governor Cowper, ANB/ANS, Sealaska Corporation, and State Legislators.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of April, 1988, by the Fifty-Third General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, in regular session at Juneau, Alaska.

CERTIFIED


President

ATTEST


Tribal Secretary

Agreement Signed with State Homes

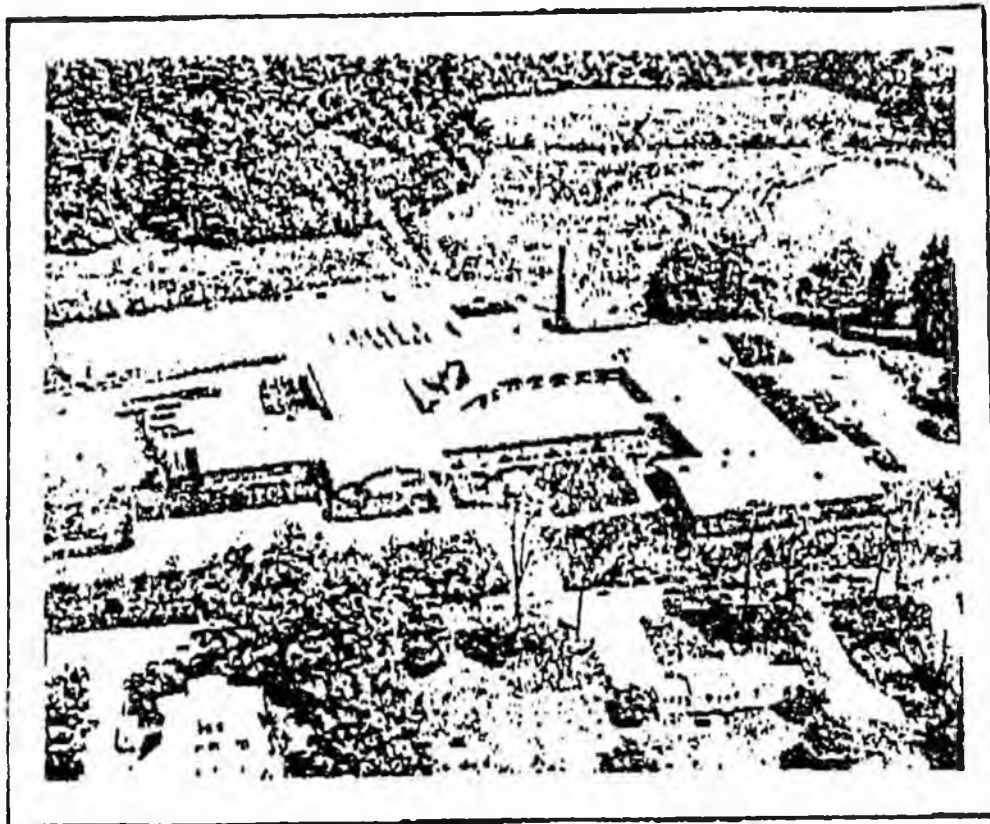
In 1986, the Veterans Administration and the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) signed a "memorandum of understanding" in an effort to formalize their long-standing efforts to provide quality care to veterans.

In this first formal agreement between the VA and NASVH, signed on February 24 in Washington, DC, both organizations agreed to work together to identify areas for enhancing the quality of care for veterans through an exchange of information. Areas of focus include the establishment, expansion, and renovation of state veterans homes and examining the results of research done by the VA, state homes, NASVH, and other agencies or individuals on long-term care and the elderly.

The Federal Government has shared in the cost of veterans' care in state veterans homes since 1888. Since then, the VA-state partnership has resulted in the construction and remodeling of numerous state facilities, as well as VA participation in per diem payments to states to offset the cost of care of veterans with grants approved and administered by the VA. A state that participates in either or both of the programs initiates and controls the overall establishment, management, and operation of a state home within established regulations.

NASVH, organized in 1952, promotes legislation, and shares knowledge concerning problems and experiences common to all state homes. Membership includes representatives from 52 state-operated veterans facilities located in 35 states.

A TYPICAL STATE VETERANS' HOME
(New Hampshire)



FACT SHEET

Veterans' Home

1. Our Veteran population is aging with WWII Veterans in their mid-60's and older. Unfortunately, with increasing age comes an increase in infirmity and in some cases, increased indigence. Coincidentally, with the increase in age comes an increase in medical care and nursing home care as well as long term residential care.
 - ° Alaska currently has an approximate WWII and WWI population of 14,000.
 - ° Private nursing home costs in Alaska generally range from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per month.
 - ° The general rule is that VA will cover the costs of nursing care for six months and then the costs must be paid by the Veteran.
 - ° Pioneer Homes have long waiting lists for nursing home care.
 - must be continuous resident of Alaska for 15 years.
 - must be 65 years of age or older and agree to pay \$525.00 a month for a nursing care bed.
2. A Veterans' home providing nursing care and possibly domiciliary care could be a means for providing dignified and more economical care for our aging Veterans.
 - ° Discuss the need for Veteran care with other State agencies and arrive at a consolidated position on the course of action for a proposal to determine the need.
 - ° Propose to the legislature that a study be funded to determine the availability and accessibility of skilled nursing and intermediate care beds for Alaska Veterans. The study should incorporate the resources and concerns of the U. S. Veterans Administration, Alaska Veterans Advisory Board, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the numerous Veterans organizations.
3. Attached are two fact sheets which provide data concerning one possible alternative for a Veterans' Home. Other alternatives would include private ventures and other State Departments' capabilities.
4. Also attached is a copy of an American Legion Resolution approved at their 68th Annual Convention in June of 1987. This resolution proposes to take action to motivate city, state and federal agencies to bring about a Veterans' Home in Alaska.

STATE VETERANS HOME

1. World War II Veterans (14,280).
 - Mid-60's and older.
 - Increasing infirmity and indigence.
 - Some are homeless and undernourished.

2. Veterans Administration has no facilities for care except by contract.
 - Domiciliary care is out of State.
 - Nursing Home care in marginal locations in State.
 - 58 Veterans in Pioneer Home.

3. State has Pioneer Home.
 - Nursing care - 2 to 3 year wait.
 - Residential care - about 6 months.
 - Must reside in State 15 years before applying.

4. State Homes provide needed services.
 - 33 States have 46 State Homes = 17,698 beds.
 - 7,341 beds for domiciliary care.
 - 9,668 beds for Nursing Home care.

5. Our Veterans deserve to live out their years in dignity.

STATE VETERANS HOMES

- Nursing Home Care and Domiciliary Care
 - State provides establishment, control and administration of State Home.
 - Enactment of legislation.
 - Appropriate the land.
 - Appropriate funds for State's share of construction and operational costs (35%).
 - VA helps establish Home.
 - Up to 65% of construction costs.
 - VA cannot participate in cost of land.
 - Pays per-diem for each patient, up to one-half cost of care not to exceed:
 - Domiciliary care - \$7.30 per day.
 - Nursing Home Care - \$17.05 per day.
 - State establishes maintenance charges and collects from pension, compensation or other income.

Pioneer Home

Although there are 58 reported Veterans currently admitted to a Pioneer Home, their acceptance was based upon other factors such as residency, age, condition, etc., rather than their status as a VETERAN. Pioneer Homes have been trying to meet the needs of the elderly in need of domiciliary and nursing home care since the first Pioneer Home was established in Sitka in 1913. Alaska currently has five state-operated Pioneers' Homes.

- ° Long waiting lists for nursing home care
- ° Residential care occupants take priority for nursing beds
- ° Destitute persons also take priority for nursing care
- ° Alaska private nursing homes cost \$5,000 to \$8,000 per month for a bed
- ° Pioneer Homes' beds cost \$425 per month for residential care and \$525 per month for nursing care
- ° Requirements for admission
 - be a current state resident
 - have been a continuous resident for 15 years
 - be 65 years of age or older and agree to pay the \$425 or \$525 cost for bed OR be destitute and in need of health care
- ° Current costs to state EACH YEAR are over \$40,000 PER PATIENT
- ° Nursing and residential costs out of state are approximately 3-4 times LESS COSTLY

Currently, consideration is being give to reduce operating costs by increased contracting with private firms and increasing rents for beds.

For the Veteran in need of care, the prospects for admittance to a Pioneer Home is extremely prohibitive by virtue of the requirements for admittance and the long nursing care waiting time.

State Veterans' HomeDefinition:

1. The term State Home means a home approved by VA which has been established by a State for Veterans disabled by age, disease or otherwise who, by reason of this disability, are incapable of earning a living.
 - ° Nursing Home Care means accommodations for convalescents or other persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care, but who require nursing care and related medical services.
 - ° Domiciliary Care means providing shelter, food and necessary medical care on an ambulatory, self-care basis to assist Veterans disabled by age or disease but not needing nursing care or hospitalization, to attain physical, mental and social well-being through special rehabilitative programs.

General:

1. The State Home Program may assist a state through two grant-in-aid programs. First, the VA may make per diem payments for care provided to eligible Veterans in recognized state Veterans homes. The payments are for up to one-half the cost of care not to exceed \$7.30 per diem for domiciliary care; \$17.05 per diem for nursing home care; and \$15.25 per diem for hospital care. (Title 38 U.S.C. Sections 641-643)
2. Second, the VA can participate in up to 65 percent of the cost of constructing or acquiring new domiciliary or nursing home care facilities and up to 65 percent of the cost of remodeling existing buildings for the provision of domiciliary, nursing home or hospital care in state homes. (Title 38 U.S.C Sections 5031-5037)

Process:

1. The Process (01-1, Part 1, Chapter 32):

Subject to the availability of an appropriation, a grant award may be made to a state which has submitted, and has had approved by the Administrator, an application for assistance to construct state home facilities as prescribed in VA Regulations 6170-6177. All actions in the process are coordinated by the State Home Program in Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care.

A State desiring to receive assistance, after clearinghouse approvals, submits to the Administrator (VA) an application in compliance with OMB Circular A-102.

2. The Office of Construction and DM&S Engineering Service performs technical reviews of drawings and specifications. When the final drawings and specifications for bid purposes have been approved and bid tabulations reviewed and approved, the Administrator signs the Memorandum of Agreement initiated by the state. This is the grand award and permits the state to claim for reimbursement. Claims are routed through DM&S budget to the Controller where they are processed and sent to Treasury for payment to the state.
3. The authorizing Committee intend that a state is considered to meet the requirement for the first priority for construction (having appropriated funds) if sufficient funds have been made available by the state so that construction or acquisition of the facility may proceed upon the approval of the [VA] grant without further action by the state in providing funding for the project.

Based on both the statutory language of 38 U.S.C. Section 5035(b)(6) and its legislative history, for a state project to be placed in the first priority group, the state must be so committed to the project that it is willing to put up its share of the project's cost long before VA awards a grant. To meet this commitment, we believe the state must meet the following requirements:

- The state must actually have funds for the project,
- The funds must be sufficient for the project to proceed upon award of the grant, and
- No further state action must be required to make available for the project those funds determined to be sufficient.

1. Can State Home furnish more than one level of care?

Yes. A State Home may furnish domiciliary and nursing home care. A home which furnishes more than one level of care must provide such care in clearly designated areas within the home so that the levels of care are not intermingled.

2. Who establishes a State Home?

The establishment, control, and administration of a State Home is the responsibility of the State which it serves.

3. How is a State Home established?

Generally, Veteran service organizations and interested state officials encourage the state legislature to enact legislation for establishment of a State Veterans Home and to appropriate funds for its operation.

4. What assistance from VA is available in the establishment of a State Home?

a. The VA will provide guidance and consult with representatives of the state to insure that the facility will meet regulations for VA recognition and Federal aid payments under provision of Title 38 U.S.C. 641 (as amended).

b. The VA cannot participate in the cost of the land.

5. What Federal funds are available to a state for the operation of a State Home?

Under provisions of Title 38 U.S.C. 641, the VA participates by making per diem payments to the states for the three levels of care furnished Veterans as follows:

a. Domiciliary Care - up to one-half of the cost of care not to exceed \$7.30 per day.

b. Nursing Home Care - up to one-half of the cost of care not to exceed \$17.05 per day.

6. Can the state assess or charge Veterans for the cost of their care?

Yes. The state operated facility may establish a maintenance charge system and collect from the pension, compensation, or other income of Veterans.

7. Is there a limit on the amount collected from Veterans?

No. However, income collected from Veterans is subtracted from the total allowable costs during fiscal verifications. VA aid payments may not exceed this difference nor may VA aid payments exceed one-half the aggregate cost of maintaining Veterans in a home.

8. Can the VA participate with states in the construction of State Home facilities?

a. Yes. Under Title 38 U.S.C. 5031-5037 (as amended) the VA is authorized to participate in up to 65% of the cost of acquisition and construction of new domiciliary or nursing home buildings, and/or the expansion, remodeling, or alteration of existing domiciliary, nursing or hospital care buildings, provided VA standards and regulations are met. Acquisition and renovation costs may not exceed the cost of construction of an equivalent new facility.

b. Such cost may include architect fees, supervision, inspection, cost of final audit, and initial equipment not to exceed 10 percent of the cost of construction.

c. The VA may not participate in projects for maintenance and repair except as they are involved inextricably in remodeling patient care areas.

9. Can the VA reimburse a state for the Federal share of completed construction projects? What are the conditions?

Yes, providing the VA receives a preapplication/application and approves all bid documents (drawings and specifications) before construction begins or early in the construction phase.

10. Is there a limit on the number of beds that can be constructed with VA participation?

Yes. However, the limitation is only on nursing home care beds which cannot exceed 4 beds per 1,000 Veteran population in the state. The state must provide justification, acceptable to the Administrator, for nursing home beds in excess of 2 1/2 per 1,000 Veteran population of a state.

11. Who is responsible for a construction project?

The state is primarily responsible.

The state employs an architect and submits plans for review and commitment of federal funding prior to awarding the contract. During construction, which is supervised by the state, reimbursement claims may be submitted to the VA for payment.

12. May other than Veterans occupy facilities constructed under Title 38 U.S.C. 5031-5037?

Yes. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the bed occupants at any one time may be Veteran related family members, i.e., spouses, surviving spouses, and or gold star parents who are not entitled to payment of VA aid.

13. What does the July 1 deadline mean? .

If an applicant has not provided to the VA evidence of adequate state financial support by July 1 of the Federal fiscal year in which VA notifies the applicant that Federal funds are available, the project will be deferred to the next fiscal year and accorded priority at that time, subject to the availability of funds.