

HB

504

VFW

GARY L. KURPIUS
Service Officer

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA SERVICE OFFICE

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2 March 1994

Honorable Eldon Mulder
Room 116
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mulder;

We the Veterans of Foreign Wars support House Bill 504,
cosmetically amending ARS 04.11.10, deleting the word
"uniformed" and adding the words "on active duty".

As the military no longer requires its members to wear a
uniform during off duty hours, the requirement of "uniformed
military personnel" under ARS 04.11.10 is antiquated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Kurpius".

Gary L. Kurpius
Adjutant, VFW
Dept of Alaska

Sponsor Statement HOUSE BILL 504

OVERVIEW

Current Alaska statute requires that in order to be served and purchase alcohol at American Legion Posts and other patriotic organizations, active duty military personnel must be in uniform, even though the military does not require personnel to wear their uniforms during off duty hours. HB 504 will amend AS 04.11.110 by simply removing the words "in uniform" from statute and will allow military personnel to visit a patriotic organization without having to wear a uniform.

Alaska's VFW and American Legion Posts support HB 504 so that they can better accommodate the military personnel that they represent.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

1. Amend ARS 05.15.180(g), to remove the 1 Million Dollar limitation in the statute as it applies to qualified non-profit organizations. The statute presently sets limits on the amount of gaming awards that can be awarded in any given calendar year to \$1,000,000. This amendment would remove any such limitation.

2. Amend ARS 04.11.10, by deleting the words "in uniform" from the statute as it pertains to club licenses. Presently, Alaska club statutes provide that alcoholic beverages may be purchased only by the following:

- (1) members of the club and their families,
- (2) widows or widowers of deceased members
- (3) uniformed military personnel

The above amendment allows the deletion of "uniformed military personnel" in the statute and corrects an oversight making the appropriate cosmetic change. This change allows the serviceman to visit a post without wearing a uniform of which he is not required by the military to wear on off duty hours.

(3) Amend ARS 05.15.180 by adding a section which provides that sports pools and daily sign in sheets can be considered authorized statutory activities as relates to qualified non-profit organizations who are in good standing with national organization. The statute, as amended, would allow gaming activities that sports pools and sign in sheets as authorized permissible activities.

(4) Recommend that Service Officer funding remain at \$450,000 for FYR 95 for following reasons:

(a) Has proven to be a successful state mandated program for over 40 years;

(b) In FYR 94 the Veterans suffered a loss of funding for the Death Gratuity and a loss of appropriation for the operation of the Division of Veterans Affairs. This represented a 30% cut in funding and 20% more than other programs sustained;

(c) Monetary recovery of \$18,000,000 is expected for this year in Veteran VA Pension and Compensation claims. This claim recovery results in \$56 collected for every dollar appropriated by the State.

(5) Alaska's large and widely dispersed Veterans population requires extensive travel over 550 thousand square miles by Veterans Service organization representatives. Despite the costs of these services, the State of Alaska spends but \$6.85 per Veteran in contrast to Arkansas and Minnesota where \$13.70 and \$39.68 respectively, are spent on each Veteran.

(6) A reduction in Service Officer funding at this time would have a serious effect on Veteran State wide services. The VA has a Veteran Services Division of only five or six persons including clerical staff. The VA's main office is in Anchorage and a reduction in staff would mean that the 70,000 or 72,000 veterans would only be reached through contact of an 800 number. Obviously, this would mean that almost three-quarters of Alaska's Veterans would go unserved; particularly in the rural and small towns of Alaska.

(7) Lack of sufficient funding will result in a reduction in recovery of Veteran's VA claim and benefits would in many cases result in higher state welfare and medical costs because of the inability of service organizations to process and handle claims and rehabilitation.

(8) The American Legion vigorously opposes permanent loss of funding for its death gratuity program and operation moneys for Division of Veteran Affairs. However, due to anticipated budgetary shortfall in State revenues, the Legion as a responsible Grant holder recognizes the restraint on new funding this year. Should additional revenues become available this session, however, the Legion will of course diligently seek funding for these programs.

(9) The American Legion along with Senior organizations vigorously oppose any bill which would do away with Seniors and 50% Disabled Veterans tax exemptions. To remove these exemption, would force many disabled veterans to move or seek welfare. Qualified disabled veterans receive a little more than \$700 in compensation benefits.

(10) The Legion, along with Senior citizens, oppose any bill restricting the payment of Longevity Bonus. Annuities and other means are available to keep the bonus in tack. Senior citizen expenditures, as a result of the bonus, amount to millions of dollars. The same is true with permanent fund disbursements which Seniors 55 or older, spend locally.

(11) The American Legion opposes any State Health Care program which fails to recognize the independent status and integrity of the VA Hospital system.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 504

Revision Date:

Dept. Affected: Revenue

Title:

Sale of Alcohol in Clubs

BRU:

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Component:

Sponsor:

House Special Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs

Requestor:

House Special Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0100

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TEMPORARY	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of current year (FY94) Impact: \$ 0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared by: Director Patrick L. Shamock *Patrick L. Shamock* Phone: (907) 277-8638
 Division: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 Approved by Commissioner: Daniel J. Banzickel *Daniel J. Banzickel* Date: March 1, 1994
 Agency: Department of Revenue Date: 3/2/94

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