

HB

215



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

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RESOLUTION #3 1999

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA IS ADAMANTLY
OPPOSED TO THE LEGISLATURE'S ATTEMPT TO REPEAL THE RENTER'S
EQUIVALENCY REBATE & THE HOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAMS FOR
DISABLED VETERANS & SENIOR CITIZENS.

THE STATE OF ALASKA HAS ESTABLISHED A COVENANT WITH THE DISABLED
VETERANS, IN LAW, PROVIDING HOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION & RENTER'S
EQUIVALENCY REBATE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE & SACRIFICE TO A
GRATEFUL NATION & A GRATEFUL STATE.

THE STATE CREATED A COVENANT WHERE-BY DISABLED VETERANS WERE
ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND RESIDE DISPIE DISABILITIES THAT
LIMITED THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT.

FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA TO NOW REVOKE THESE PROGRAMS WOULD BE
UNCONSCIONABLE, AND RESULT IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR MANY OF THE MEN
AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SO UNSELFISHLY SACRIFICED FOR OUR NATION.

ALTHOUGH WE CAN NOT QUOTE ACTUAL NUMBERS, THIS ACTION MAY FORCE
DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO RELOCATE WITHIN THE STATE OF
ALASKA TO THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT MAY GRANT THE EXEMPTIONS OR BE
FORCED, BECAUSE OF LIMITED INCOME TO LEAVE OUR GREAT STATE THAT THEY
ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

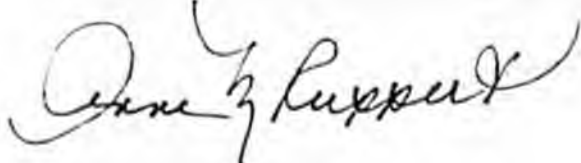
FOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO TRY AND BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF DISABLED VETERANS, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED SERVICES ARE INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICT IS NOT ONLY MORALLY WRONG, BUT A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND SACRIFICED.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT;

ON THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL 1999 THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA HONOR ITS PLEDGE TO THE DISABLED VETERANS OF THIS GREAT STATE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

VOTED ON AND PASSED BY THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA DELEGATES AT THEIR CONVENTION HELD IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.

SIGNED THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL 1999.



ANNE M. RUPPERT
ADJUTANT/TREASURER
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

(SEAL)

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Minority Leader



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Representative Ethan Berkowitz
District 13

House Bill 215

"An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for renters' tax equivalency payments; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor Statement

The Renter's Equivalency Rebate Program (usually referred to as "Renter's Rebate") was established in 1976 to aid low-income seniors with housing costs. In 1985, disabled veterans were added to the program. Renter's Rebate typically provides a small housing stipend averaging \$277 a year to individuals who are elderly and/or disabled with incomes in the neighborhood of \$1,000 per month.

Since 1991, funding for the program has dropped from roughly \$820,000 to \$300,000. Adjusting for inflation and population growth, fully funding the Renter's Rebate program would require \$1,133,000 in Fiscal Year 2000. House Bill 215 appropriates a modest level of support for the Renter's Rebate program – just \$300,000.

Some have suggested that all Alaskans should share the pain of budget cuts. Failure to pass this legislation means that seniors and disabled veterans – people who have served our country and communities – will assume all the pain of budget cuts.

I would appreciate your support of this legislation.

Patrick
No needs based

HOUSE BILL NO. 215

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BERKOWITZ, Croft, Grussendorf, Cissna, Smalley, Moses, Kemplen, Brice,
Kerttula

Introduced: 4/28/99

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Finance

Funding Information:	General Fund	\$300,000
	Other Funds	<u>-0-</u>
		\$300,000

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Community and Regional
2 Affairs for renters' tax equivalency payments; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 * Section 1. The sum of \$300,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department
5 of Community and Regional Affairs for renters' tax equivalency payments under AS 29.45.040
6 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.

7 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.