

SB

247

HFIN

FILE

(11)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: April 7, 2000

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/12/00

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 247(FIN)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 247(FIN)

VETERANS' ELIGIBILITY FOR LONGEVITY BONUS

"An Act relating to eligibility of certain persons who receive veterans' benefits for longevity bonus payments; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute [] the same title [] a new title

[] additional referral to Committee [] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[] fiscal note(s) [X] fiscal note(s) DoA 3-20-00

[] zero fiscal note(s) [] zero fiscal note(s)

Table with 5 columns: SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, DP, DNP, NR, AM. Rows include signatures and names: Bunde, Austerman, DAVIS, Moses, DAVIS, Williams.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Handwritten signature of the chair.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

Bill Version: CS5B247(s)

BILL NO. (S) Publish Date: 3/20/00

**STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction)		Dept. Affected	Administration
Title	<u>Veteran's Eligibility for Longevity Bonus</u>	BRU	<u>Alaska Longevity Programs</u>
Sponsor	<u>Senator Leman</u>	Component	<u>Longevity Bonus</u>
Requester	<u>(S) STA</u>	Component No.	<u>26</u>

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill allows a longevity bonus recipient who is also a veteran to remain eligible and receive the longevity bonus while residing in an Alaska skilled nursing facility if the veteran's care is paid for by veterans' benefits or a combination of private sources and veterans' benefits.

During the past calendar year, 2/99 through 1/00, an average number of 4* veterans were disqualified from the longevity bonus program due to residence in an Alaska skilled nursing facility during which time the care was paid for by veterans' benefits.

If each of the disqualified veterans normally received the maximum longevity bonus of \$250.00, the cost to the state in an average year would be \$12.0

*Average number is 3.6 rounded up to 4

Prepared by:	<u>Jim Kohn</u>	Phone	<u>465-2159</u>
Division	<u>Alaska Longevity Programs</u>	Date/Time	
Approved by	<u>Commissioner Robert Poe Jr.</u>	Date	<u>2/28/00</u>
Agency	<u>Department of Administration</u>		

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE



Division of Legislative Finance

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2000
TO: Senator Loren Leman
FROM: *ldw* Danith Watts, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
SUBJ: Longevity Bonus Legislation Fiscal Impact

The following information is provided in response to your inquiry regarding potential legislation and the relationship of veterans residing in Alaska nursing homes and longevity bonus eligibility. Sources for information include Health Facilities Licensing & Certification (Health & Social Services), Longevity Programs (Administration), and the Director of Administrative Services for H&SS. Numbers are taken from the December 1999 census received by the certification office. (A list of Alaska's nursing homes and the veteran information by location is attached for your information [Attachments A and B]).

Total numbers of Alaska nursing homes: 15
Total number of beds statewide: 717
Total number of Veterans reported: 7 (or less than 1% of the total beds)
Specific locations with count:

Denali Center, Fairbanks	1
Providence Extended Care Center, Anchorage	5
Sitka Community Hospital (Long Term Care), Sitka	1

Without a specific analysis by individual (probably with each person's release of confidential information), it is difficult to ascertain the overall impact of legislation allowing veterans' the opportunity to receive monthly longevity bonus checks. The pure dollars expended from the system to seven individuals would range from \$21,000 down to \$8,400 annually or less dependent upon the individuals involved (monthly benefits ranging from \$100 - \$250). Since the longevity bonus program is being phased out and is closed to new applicants, a case by case analysis would have to be formulated to determine the exact figure.

There is another side to this potential legislation that you may have already considered but the issue arose in my conversations with H&SS and Administration. The receipt of a monthly longevity bonus check would impact a recipient's eligibility for funding in Medicare, Medicaid, or General Relief programs. The ALB Hold Harmless program in H&SS (originally designed to protect Supplemental Security Income eligibility) may cover a change contemplated for veterans in nursing homes, but a statutory revision may be necessary to cover all of the bases.

Attachments as noted.

cc: Marie Cook, Staff Assistant to Senator Leman

Robert F. NESVICK
2500 FORAKER DR.
ANCHORAGE AK 99517
Phone 907-243-6308
Feb. 28, 2000

Senator Loren Leman
State Office Building
JUNEAU AK FAX # 907-465-3810

Re: The state statute that addresses a recipient of the Longevity Bonus receiving the monthly bonus while admitted to either a long term care facility or nursing home for one or more days:

As a disabled veteran I strongly object to this action when the V.A. is paying the entire cost of admission. Although the V.A. is not a private source it is federally funded and does not rely on state resources.

Veterans receiving service connected disability payments should not have to forfeit their monthly Longevity Bonus when admitted for a service connected disability.

Thank You

Robert F. Nesvick

Incl 1 ATCh

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE BILL NO. 247

HISTORY IN THE SENATE

2000
2/4 Read first time and referred to:
STA. FIN

3/26 RPT(STA) CS 2 DP 1 NR DNP AM
 New Title Same Title Previous FN
 FN OFN To FIN

3/28 RPT(FIN) CS 5 DP 2 NR DNP 1 AM
 New Title Same Title Previous FN
 FN OFN To Rules

 RPT() CS DP NR DNP AM
 New Title Same Title Previous FN
 FN OFN To

3/29 Rules Calendar() CS AM Other
 New Title Same Title Previous FN
 FN OFN

3/29 Read second time
 CS Adopted (FIN) New Title
 Amended Advanced

3/29 Read third time
 Letter of Intent adopted
 Return to second for specific amendment

3/29 PASSED EFD Same or
 Yeas 20 Yeas
 Nays 0 Nays
 Excused 0 Excused
 Absent 0 Absent
 Reconsideration
 Reconsideration not taken up

PASSED EFD Same or
 Yeas Yeas
 Nays Nays
 Excused Excused
 Absent Absent

Reported correctly engrossed
 Signed by President, to House
 3/29 Heidi V.
 Secretary of the Senate

HISTORY IN THE HOUSE

2000
3/30 Read first time and referred to:
STA FIN

4/7 STA RPT CS() New Title
6 DP 0 DNP 0 NR 0 AM
 FN OFN 1 Previous FN

 RPT CS() New Title
 DP DNP NR AM
 FN OFN Previous FN

 RPT CS() New Title
 DP DNP NR AM
 FN OFN Previous FN

Read second time
 CS() Adopted

Amended

Advanced

Read third time

Return to second for specific amendment

PASSED EFD Same or
 Yeas Yeas
 Nays Nays
 Excused Excused
 Absent Absent

 Intent adopted

Reconsideration
 Reconsideration not taken up

PASSED ON RECON. EFD Same or
 Yeas Yeas
 Nays Nays
 Excused Excused
 Absent Absent

 Intent adopted

Reported correctly engrossed, signed by the Speaker
 and returned to the Senate

 Chief Clerk of the House

