

SB

237

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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Ab 237

February 1, 2000

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Pearce:

When members of the Alaska National Guard and Alaska Naval Militia are called to active service for the state, it's important they be adequately compensated for their valuable work in a timely manner. To that end, this bill simplifies the pay scale and system for the Alaska National Guard (ANG) and Alaska Naval Militia (NM).

Currently, when called to state active duty, members of the ANG and NM receive pay and allowances equal to those provided by federal law for members of equivalent grades of the United States armed forces. Daily minimum pay is determined by grade and years of service with a statutory minimum. Allowances include food, housing, cost-of-living increase, and quarters and are determined based on the circumstances of each individual.

Calculating pay and allowances under the current law requires obtaining information from the federal government regarding current pay scales and allowance amounts. This can cause significant delays in payment of ANG and NM members. It is also a labor-intensive system involving numerous manual calculations with an unreasonable chance for errors.

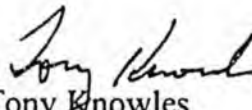
This bill simplifies the pay system for state active duty by retaining statutory minimum pay, disregarding years of service, and eliminating allowances. Members will simply receive 200 percent of the minimum basic pay for a member of an equivalent grade in the active military -- or the statutory minimum, if greater. Simplifying the calculation will save administrative time and will result in members of the ANG and NM receiving their checks in a more timely fashion.

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The bill also provides that this proposed new pay scale will be used to calculate workers' compensation and death benefits for the organized militia, which includes the Alaska State Militia as well as the ANG and NM.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
SB 237)
Statement of Intent of Bill

SB 237 "An Act relating to payment, allowances, and benefits of members of the Alaska National Guard and Alaska Naval Militia in active service; relating to computation of certain benefits for member of the Alaska State Militia; and providing for an effective date."

Purpose

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is proposing a change to current law in order to streamline certain functions when calculating pay for members of the National Guard and Naval Militia when called to State Active Duty.

Background

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is composed of three separate organizations. First, the State portion of the Department made up of the Commissioner's Office, Administration, Emergency Services, Facilities Management, and the Alaska Military Youth Academy; second, the federal portion of the department is made up of the Air and Army National Guard and Naval Militia; and third, the Alaska State Militia (commonly known as the Alaska State Defense Force). The collective name in statute for the second and third elements above is the Organized Militia.

Sectional Analysis

Section 1 changes the method of calculating pay for the members of the National Guard and Naval Militia when they are called to State Active Duty. State Active Duty results from a call by the Governor for assistance during a search and rescue or a disaster. These individuals work for the federal government, Department of Defense either on a full or part-time basis. When on State Active Duty, they are paid in accordance with the Department of Defense pay scales. This includes a daily base pay amount for each grade based on the number of years in that grade and allowances such as separate rations, housing, cost of living and flight status.

The department employs one individual who is responsible for calculating State Active Duty pay when the Governor calls on the Guard or Naval Militia to respond to a state crisis. The system is manual, complicated and subject to delay and error.

This section would simplify the procedure by eliminating allowances and replacing them with a 200% of minimum daily basic pay calculation. This would significantly reduce the number of calculations required. 200% was determined to reach approximately the same level of pay for the majority of individuals who would be called to State Active Duty. This change has been coordinated with the Officer and Enlisted Associations of the National Guard.

Section 2 is a conforming section to ensure that the changes in calculation of pay are noted when determining coverage under Workers Compensation.

Section 3 Because this bill is tied to another Senate Bill (SB 238) this section is necessary if that bill also passes. It addresses the change in the methods of handling pay calculations for the organized militia. The Organized Militia is made up of the National Guard and Naval Militia and the Alaska State Militia. Because the method of pay is different for these groups, this section must be rewritten to break out the two different methods.

Section 4 is the effective date of section 1 and 2.

Section 5 directs that Section 3 will take effect only if SB 238 passes.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1
Bill Version: SB 237
(S) Publish Date: 2-2-00

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Military and Veterans Affairs
Title Simplify Military Pay BRU Alaska National Guard
Component Office of the Commissioner
Sponsor Rules Committee
Requester Governor Component No. _____

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						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill simplifies the method of calculating pay and allowances for members of the National Guard and Naval Militia. There is no fiscal impact but administrative workload will be reduced in the event the National Guard is called onto Active Duty to respond to a state disaster or emergency. In addition, Guard and Naval Militia members will be paid more timely and accurately than in the past with this change.

Prepared by: Carol B Carroll Phone 465-4730
Division Administrative Services Date/Time 12/2/99 12:00 PM
Approved by Commissioner [Signature] Date 12/2/99
Agency Military and Veterans Affairs

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