

**HB**

**137**

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB137  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
 BRU: Information/Resource Mg  
 Component: Recorder's Office  
 Component Number: #802

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: An Act relating to records of veterans of  
the armed forces.  
 Sponsor: Sp Cmte on Military & Veterans Affairs  
 Requester: (H) MLV

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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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)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: none  
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY2002 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

AS 26.10.070 currently requires DNR's recording offices to periodically provide copies of recorded veteran discharge papers to the Vital Statistics office in the Department of Health and Social Services. It also requires Vital Statistics to maintain separate records of such information in its files. This statute essentially charges two separate government agencies with maintaining the same records – an unnecessary and duplicative waste of government resources.

Recording offices have been performing this function for decades in compliance with the existing statute.  
 ..... continued on page 2 .....

Prepared by: Sharon Young, State Recorder Phone 269-8882  
 Division: Support Services Date/Time 27-Feb-01  
 Approved by: Pat Pourchot Date 27-Feb-01  
 Agency: Natural Resources

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**ANALYSIS: (continued)**

The state's thirty-four recording districts manually monitor this information and send copies of all veteran

The state's thirty-four recording districts manually monitor this information and send copies of all veteran separation papers, with a manually prepared report, to vital statistics on a monthly basis. There is no easy means to extract all veteran separation papers from the recording system records. Reports must be requested under each branch of military service to locate and identify each recorded DD214 document. Then copies have to be manually produced from library film records and a typed report is then prepared. As the records base becomes larger and larger, DNR recording staff are spending more and more time each month in tracking and reporting this information. In the Anchorage office alone, this amounts to between four and six hours a month. Statewide, the report preparation and processing time is estimated at more than 200 hours per year (at an approximate cost of \$5.0). While this is not a huge block of time, it does represent valuable work time that will be devoted to other component priorities such as indexing and mailback functions which frequently fall into backlog status.

At the present time, the Vital Statistics office merely stores the document copies and the reports for use in the event a veteran ever requests the information from their office. The state's recording system is the official repository for all recorded documents, including military separation papers which are recorded at no charge pursuant to another provision of this same statute. This proposal would eliminate both the requirement for recorders to submit copies to Vital Statistics and the requirement for Vital Statistics to maintain separate records of such information. This proposal is in line with meeting the Governor's objectives to balance the budget by streamlining government processes. Elimination of unnecessary and redundant processes frees up valuable staff time in both agencies to meet other established objectives.

Fiscal impact of this proposal can only be measured in terms of improving available staff time in the recording section to work toward meeting other statutory mandates, such as daily recordation and indexing of incoming documents. Staff time involved in the manual tracking and preparation of reports and copies for Vital Statistics varies by office, but as noted above is estimated at more than 200 hours per year statewide.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 137**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced: 2/23/01

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Resources

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to records of veterans of the armed forces; and providing for an  
2 effective date."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 26.10.070(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A veteran may record without fee the veteran's armed forces report of  
6 separation at a recorder's office of the Department of Natural Resources. [EACH  
7 RECORDER'S OFFICE SHALL PERIODICALLY SUBMIT TO THE BUREAU OF  
8 VITAL STATISTICS COPIES OF THE REPORTS OF SEPARATION THAT IT  
9 RECORDS.]

10 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 26.10.070(b) is repealed.

11 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

**SPONSOR STATEMENT**  
**HB 137 "AN ACT RELATING TO RECORDS OF VETERANS OF**  
**THE ARMED FORCES"**  
**HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS**

This bill will eliminate the requirement that recording offices of the Department of Natural Resources periodically provide the bureau of vital statistics in the Department of Health and Social Services copies of separation papers submitted to the various recording offices by veterans of the armed forces. It will also eliminate the requirement that the bureau of vital statistics maintain a record of veterans' separation papers compiled from copies of reports received from the recording offices and information submitted to the bureau by veterans.

The requirement for two state agencies to retain the same records is duplicative and unnecessary. The state's recording systems is the official depository of all recorded documents. Although the two agencies above are legally required to retain the separation papers, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs also stores these documents as a courtesy.

Veterans' separation papers are recorded free of cost to the veteran. Copies of the document when requested are also free. Recordation is voluntary and benefits the veteran.

This bill emphasizes that there need be only one repository for these official papers and eliminates duplicative government processes.

Sec. 26.10.070. Record of veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

(a) A veteran may record without fee the veteran's armed forces report of separation at a recorder's office of the Department of Natural Resources. Each recorder's office shall periodically submit to the bureau of vital statistics copies of the reports of separation that it records.

(b) The bureau of vital statistics shall keep a record from copies of reports received under (a) of this section and from information voluntarily submitted to the bureau by veterans of all persons who are bona fide residents of Alaska and who actively served in the Alaska Territorial Guard, Alaska National Guard, organized reserve units, United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard since April 6, 1917. The record shall contain the name, age and place of residence at the time of entering service, place and date of commission, enlistment, or induction, branch of service, record of service, and the date, place, and nature of discharge.

**HB 137**

**List of Witnesses**

Carol Carroll, Director    Department of Natural Resources (Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs)

Sharon Young, State Recorder, Department of Natural Resources

Representative from Department of Vital Statistics