

SCOMM

127:6



**Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs
Representative Mike Chenault, Chair**

Committee Members

Representative Bev Masek
Representative Lisa Murkowski
Representative Joe Green
Representative Pete Kott
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Joe Hayes

Alaska State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone 907-465-3779
Fax 907-465-2833

AGENDA



February 27, 2001

Judiciary Room (120) 3:30 p.m.

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Introductions
- IV. HB 87 "An Act establishing the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council;
and providing for an effective date."
- V. Committee Comments
- VI. Public Testimony
- VII. HB 137 "An Act relating to records of veterans of the armed forces; and providing for an effective date."
- VIII. Committee Comments
- IX. Public Testimony
- X. No meeting scheduled for March 6, 2001
- XI. Adjournment

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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2001

To: Suzanne Lowell, Chief Clerk

From: Representative Mike Chenault, Chair

Subject: Schedule for Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee Meetings

The House Special Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet *Tuesday, February 27th, from 3:30-4:30 in the House Judiciary Room.*

Please schedule the following pending introduction and referral:

AGENDA

- "An act relating to records of veterans of the armed forces; and providing for an effective date."

Also, on the agenda will be:

HB 87 - "An act establishing the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council; and providing for an effective date."

Please NOTE: There will be NO MEETING scheduled for March 6th.

Please feel free to contact Leona Oberts, the MVA committee aide, at #2811 if you have any questions.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 87
(H) Publish Date: 1/24/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Military & Veterans' Affairs
Title: Establishing Alaska Veterans BRU: Veterans Services
Advisory Council Component: Veterans Affairs
Sponsor: Rules Committee
Requester: Governor Component Number: 421

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	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5

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	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note funds necessary travel costs associated with conducting meetings of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council (AVAC), which is established in statute with this legislation.

The fiscal analysis is based on the following assumptions:

1. AVAC will conduct one annual meeting in Juneau and one in Anchorage.
2. Assume 15 of 20 members will attend each meeting.

Total estimated meeting costs is \$8.5. DMVA has \$5.0 existing authorization available, resulting in the need for an additional \$3.5.

Prepared by: Carol Carroll, Director Phone 465-4730
Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 1/11/01 1:25 PM
Approved by: Phil Oates Date 1/11/01
Agency: Military & Veterans Affairs

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

HB 87
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
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January 22, 2001

The Honorable Brian Porter
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Porter:

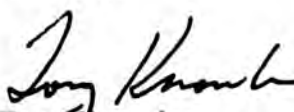
In 1996 I issued Administrative Order No. 164 to establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. The council advises the state on ways to better address the needs and concerns of Alaska's veterans, their dependents and their survivors. Its work is vital and deserves a permanent status. I am therefore transmitting this bill to establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in statute within the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA).

The work of the council will remain the same. Its duties will continue to include making recommendations concerning veterans' priority service needs, developing public and private partnerships to meet those needs, and providing coordination of information regarding veterans' benefits and services around the state. The chair of the council would also serve on the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Advisory Board as proposed under separate legislation.

This bill would maintain the present 20-member structure of the council to include one or more persons affiliated with a veterans organization, one or more persons from a state agency that manages programs affecting veterans, and one or more members of the general public familiar with veterans' issues. Council members would continue to serve without compensation other than per diem and travel expenses.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

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STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 5800

FT. RICHARDSON, AK 99505-5800

PH: (907) 428-6003

The Honorable Mike Chenault, Chair
House Special Committee on Military and
Veterans Affairs
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

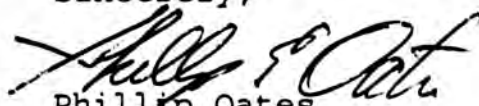
Dear Representative Chenault:

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs requests a hearing on HB 87 "An Act establishing the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council; and providing for an effective date."

The bill establishes in statute the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council, an organization that has assisted the department in identifying the needs of veterans in the State of Alaska. Alaskan veterans have benefited from the work and dedication of these veterans. The bill assures that continued commitment.

I look forward to working with you on this bill. If you have questions or need information, please call Carol Carroll, 465-4730 or Laddie Shaw, 428-6068 of my staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Phillip Oates
Adjutant General



TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

July 3, 1996

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 164

I, Tony Knowles, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of art. III, secs. 1 and 24 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 44.19.145(c), establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the council is to advise the Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), on ways to better address the needs and concerns of Alaska's veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

DUTIES

The council will be responsible for making recommendations to the State Coordinator of Veterans' Affairs in DMVA on priority service needs, developing public and private partnerships to meet those needs, improving recognition of Alaska's veterans, and providing coordination of information regarding veterans' benefits and services around the state.

The council may hold meetings, and establish committees as appropriate to carry out its duties. To reduce costs, the council should primarily use teleconferencing or other electronic means to the extent practicable in order to gain the widest public participation at minimum costs.

MEMBERSHIP

Council members are appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The council consists of not more than 20 members, to include persons from veterans' organizations, persons from selected state agencies that manage programs affecting veterans; and persons from the general public who are familiar with veterans' issues. The board will elect a chair from among its nonstate agency members.

TERMS

The term of a council member who is not a state employee is three years, except initial terms of council members may be for less than three years to allow for staggering of terms.

VACANCIES

A vacancy on the Council will be filled by appointment by the Governor. A member

appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of the member whose vacancy is filled. A vacancy does not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the council.

COMPENSATION

Council members do not receive compensation as a member of the council. Council members who are not state employees may receive standard per diem and travel reimbursement in the same manner permitted for members of other state boards and commissions.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the council may occur once per quarter or at the call of the chair. A quorum of the council must be present at a council meeting, in order for the council to conduct business, and a majority of the council constitutes a quorum for the purposes of conducting business. Meetings of the council shall be conducted in accordance with AS 44.62.310 (Open Meetings Law). The council shall keep a record of its meetings.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) shall serve as lead contact agency for the council, and shall provide administrative support necessary for the council to carry out its duties under this order. The council is an advisory body, and has no supervisory authority over DMVA staff. In accordance with law, DMVA may enter into intergovernmental agreements necessary to accomplish the purposes of this order.

This order takes effect immediately.

Dated at Juneau, Alaska, this 3 day of July, 1996.

S/S Tony Knowles
Tony Knowles
Governor

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Administrative Orders 151-present | Contact the Governor | Webmaster | State of Alaska



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Press Releases



ALASKA IN THE NEWS

January 22, 2001

Release 01022

KNOWLES' BILLS ADDRESS VETERANS' NEEDS

Veterans Home System Proposed, Vets Advisory Council Put in Statute

Making good on a commitment he made to Alaska veterans on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Gov. Tony Knowles today introduced legislation expanding the Pioneers' Home system to provide for veterans, and a separate bill to establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in statute.

The first bill changes the name of the state-run Pioneers' Homes to the "Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Homes" system and establishes an admissions preference for veterans.

"We are doing much more than simply changing the name of the Pioneers' Homes," Knowles said. "We are providing older veterans a tangible symbol of the respect and recognition they deserve and a sign of commitment to meeting their long-term needs"

According to Department of Administration Commissioner Jim Duncan there are about 100 beds presently vacant among the 600 in the six homes around the state. "We can make use of our existing, high quality long-term care system to serve aging veterans. They'll be able to reside closer to their communities and families," Duncan said. The bill authorizes the Department of Administration to establish an admission's preference for veterans by regulation.

To fully staff the homes and provide necessary ancillary services, Knowles asked the Legislature for nearly \$2.5 million in general funds and another \$2.6 million in receipt authority in the Fiscal Year 2002 operating budget.

Devising the plan was a joint effort involving Commissioners Duncan, Major General Phillip Oates of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), and Karen Perdue of the Department of Health and Social Services. The plan is supported by statewide veterans and senior groups such as the American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Pioneers of Alaska, and the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council and the Pioneers' Home Advisory Board also support the plan.

The Legion, VFW, and Disabled American Veterans wrote a joint letter of support. "The three service organizations are in complete agreement in their support for your proposal said Dean Hill, Adjutant of the Department of Alaska American Legion. "It is a giant step forward that will provide needed care for our senior veterans."

Earl Fosse, Grand President of the Pioneers of Alaska said he agreed "in principle and spirit with the concept of merging the Alaska Pioneers and Veterans."

Ella Craig, Chair of the Pioneers' Home Advisory Board, signed a resolution that said it "supports the concept of a Pioneers' and Veterans' Home system."

The Hospital and Nursing Home Association's resolution urges a partnership between itself and the Pioneers' Homes, "to benefit our Veterans in the local community."

Knowles also asked the Legislature to appropriate \$200,000 to DMVA to survey veterans' housing and health needs to help guide the state in future planning for the homes. He also noted that the state would work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to explore ways to maximize delivery of services to resident veterans and would ask them to examine the possibility of placing VA

clinics at the homes.

The second bill Knowles introduced today establishes Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in state statute. "The work of the council to better address the needs and concerns of Alaska's veterans, their dependents, and their survivors, is vital and deserves a more permanent status," Knowles said.

Knowles formed the council in 1996 through Administrative Order No. 164. Under statute, it would have the same composition and the same purpose as outlined in the order: making recommendations concerning veterans' priority service needs, developing public and private partnerships to meet those needs, and providing coordination of information regarding veterans' benefits and services around the state.

The chair of the council would serve on the renamed Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Advisory Board.

##



Contact:

Bob King, Press Secretary at 907-465-3995

Claire Richardson, Deputy Press Secretary at 907-465-3996

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WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

Request for teleconference site

Request off-net site for 428-6068

List of Witnesses

Mr. Laddie Shaw, Veterans Coordinator of the Department of Military and Veterans will present the bill to the Committee