

**SB**

**30002**

SFIN

FILE

SB 3002

was referred to the  
Senate Finance  
Committee

No hearing was held  
on this bill

# INFORMATIONAL FISCAL NOTE

## For Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Appropriation Bills

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Admin  
 Title An Act making an appropriation BRU AK Longevity Programs  
to the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Component Pioneers' Home  
 Sponsor Rules by Request of Governor  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component No. 1950

### Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services	5,327.3	5,446.9	5,446.9	5,446.9	5,446.9	5,446.9
Travel						
Contractual	268.1	274.1	274.1	274.1	274.1	274.1
Supplies	81.7	83.5	83.5	83.5	83.5	83.5
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>5,677.1</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</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>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 1156 )</b>	<b>3,012.4</b>	<b>3,139.8</b>	<b>3,139.8</b>	<b>3,139.8</b>	<b>3,139.8</b>	<b>3,139.8</b>

### FUND SOURCE

1002 Federal Receipts*	V.A. Per Diem Payments to veterans are included in 1118 PHR.					
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	2,664.7	2,664.7	2,664.7	2,664.7	2,664.7	2,664.7
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1118 Pioneers Home Receipts **	3,012.4	3,139.8	3,139.8	3,139.8	3,139.8	3,139.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,677.1</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>	<b>5,804.5</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

### POSITIONS

Full-time	141	141	141	141	141	141
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

\$2,664.6 million GF is included in this fiscal note and together with projected Pioneers' Home receipts will provide the funding necessary to upgrade the level of care of beds currently vacant, and allow admissions to the Anchorage, Palmer, and Sitka Homes. This funding will allow the State to make full use of the 600 beds in the Pioneers' Home System.

Assuming an occupancy ratio of 19% veterans on 6/30/02, the Pioneers Home System will provide a Veterans' preference on 114 beds.

\* Federal Veterans Administration per diem payments to individual veterans that are then paid to the Pioneers' Homes for services are included in the Pioneers Homes Receipts\*\*. These payments are estimated to commence on October 1, 2002 - amounting to \$379.4 in increased receipts in FY 2003 increasing to \$506.8 in FY 2004 and thereafter.

The lowest VA reimbursement payment amount of \$24.40 per day is assumed.

Prepared by: James Kohn, Director Phone 465-2159  
 Division Alaska Longevity Programs Date/Time 06/13/02  
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 6/13/2002  
 Agency Department of Administration

3rd Special Session  
6/24/02

**Summary Pioneers' Home**  
**Estimated Costs & Revenues of Filling EAL Beds**

**Additional Costs:**

Personal Services	5,446,905
Food Service	274,069
Total Contractual	274,069
Incontinent Supplies	46,955
Medical Supplies	17,485
Latex/Nitrile Gloves	9,724
Laundry Chemicals	4,605
Textiles (bedding, washcloths, etc)	3,525
Code Alert/Resident Alarms	1,209
Total Supplies	<u>83,503</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,804,476</b>

General Funds	2,664,656
Program Receipts	3,139,820

**Additional Positions:**

**Quantity**

Activity Aide - PH Aide	11.5
Cert. Nurse Aide	86
Food Service Worker I	9.5
Housekeeping/Custodian I	9.5
Medical Records Assistant	3
Social Worker Assistant	2
Nurse II	18.5
Nurse IV	1
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>141</b>

\*Allows staffing necessary to increase level of care to Enhanced Assisted Living (EAL) in Sitka, Anchorage and Palmer for currently vacant in the Homes.



State Of Alaska  
 Department of Administration  
 Division of Alaska Longevity Programs  
 Pioneers' Homes Occupancy Report  
 May-02



	Sitka	Fairbanks	Palmer	Anchorage	Ketchikan	Juneau	Total
<b>Coordinated Services</b>							
Total	22	16	5	92	8	4	145
Unavailable	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Occupied	13	13	3	34	4	4	71
Assigned	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Available	9	3	0	58	0	0	70
<b>Basic Assisted Living</b>							
Total	23	17	24	50	13	12	139
Unavailable	0	0	11	0	0	0	11
Occupied	13	15	13	48	11	12	110
Assigned	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Available	10	2	0	4	1	0	17
<b>Enhanced Assisted Living</b>							
Total	25	43	27	26	15	19	155
Unavailable	0	0	11	0	0	0	11
Occupied	24	37	18	20	14	15	132
Assigned	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Available	1	6	0	0	0	4	11
<b>ADRD</b>							
Total	26	18	16	40	8	12	118
Unavailable	6	0	2	0	0	0	8
Occupied	19	18	14	35	8	11	103
Assigned	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Available	1	0	0	5	0	0	6
<b>Comprehensive Services</b>							
Total	6	5	10	17	5	1	44
Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occupied	3	5	10	17	5	0	40
Assigned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
<b>Total Spaces</b>							
Total	102	97	82	225	47	48	601
Unavailable	6	0	26	0	0	0	32
Occupied	72	88	58	158	42	42	456
Assigned	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Available	24	11	0	67	1	5	108
<b>Infirmity Beds</b>							
Total	6	2	0	4	2	3	17
<b>Available Beds Occupied &amp; Assigned</b>	75.0%	88.7%	100.0%	70.2%	97.9%	89.6%	81.0%

<b>Veteran Residents</b>							
Male	15	15	14	29	5	5	83
Female	0	2	0	5	1	0	8
<b>Total Veteran Residents</b>	15	17	14	34	6	5	91

<b>Waiting List</b>							
Active List	13	99	32	73	36	37	290
Inactive List	683	844	937	1,391	483	823	5,161
<b>Total Applicants on Active Waiting List</b>							2,738
<b>Total Number of Actual Applicants on Active Waiting List</b>							196
<b>Total Number of Actual Applicants on Inactive Waiting List</b>							2,517
<b>Total Applicants on Waiting Lists</b>							2,713

**Status Changes For May 2002**

	Sitka	Fairbanks	Palmer	Anchorage	Ketchikan	Juneau	Total
<b>Admission</b>							
Coordinated Services	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Basic Assisted Living	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Enhanced Assisted Living	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
ADRD Unit	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Comprehensive Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Deaths</b>							
Coordinated Services	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Basic Assisted Living	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Enhanced Assisted Living	1	3	1	0	1	2	8
ADRD Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comprehensive Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Discharges</b>							
Coordinated Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Basic Assisted Living	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhanced Assisted Living	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
ADRD Unit	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Comprehensive Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Unusual Occurrences

James L. Kohn, Director

## Active Wait List

NAME	TOWN	APPLICATION DATE
Gilmore, Mae E	Ketchikan	8/31/1992
Dlouhy, Charles	Anchorage	9/21/1992
Raith, Wenzel	Fairbanks	6/17/1994
Thayer, June	Fairbanks	6/29/1994
Renshaw, Anson	Anchorage	10/14/1994
Pomeroy, Roxolana	Anchorage	10/28/1994
Chinn, Eleanor	Fairbanks	1/18/1995
Jodwalis, Hubert	Fairbanks	5/15/1995
Berry, Elizabeth	Fairbanks	8/2/1995
Glover, Anna	Fairbanks	11/3/1995
Demrning, Annie C	Fairbanks	2/4/1996
Doyle, Alice	Homer	2/7/1996
Herning, Mattie	Fairbanks	2/20/1996
Estelle, Ruth E	Palmer	3/14/1996
Leckwold, Harry	Palmer	4/24/1996
Oleary, Audrey	Fairbanks	6/19/1996
Larrabee, John	Fairbanks	12/10/1996
Funk, Dora	Fairbanks	12/13/1996
Blacha, Carmel	Fairbanks	12/16/1996
Reininger, Genvieve	Fairbanks	4/9/1997
Jeppesen, Arthur	Fairbanks	6/24/1997
Lenhart, Oswald	Anchorage	7/28/1997
McSmith, Blanche L	Anchorage	8/12/1997
John, Victoria	Fairbanks	9/10/1997
Marvin, Rose	Sitka	12/30/1997
Bullard, Lena	Fairbanks	2/24/1998
Barricklow, Mary R	Juneau	2/26/1998
Carlson, James	Fairbanks	4/17/1998
Bracken, Everett O	Juneau	5/1/1998
Bracken, Laura M	Juneau	5/1/1998
Moisio, Helmo	Anchorage	12/7/1998
Quaschnewski, Margarete	Anchorage	12/31/1998
Purviance, Glenn	Wasilla	3/22/1999
Zachry, Robert	Anchorage	3/30/1999
Brown, Jean	Anchorage	5/24/1999
Dennis, Albert	Anchorage	7/13/1999
Gibson, Ruth	Fairbanks	8/19/1999
Cumming, Joseph	Fairbanks	8/27/1999
Alutius, Marie	Eagle River	11/8/1999
Roppel, Robert J	Ketchikan	11/8/1999
Gray, Nick	Yakutat	12/7/1999
Punches, Flora H	Wasilla	1/20/2000
Aldrich, Harold	Anchorage	3/6/2000
Aubert, Wanda	Fairbanks	4/21/2000
French, Helen	North Pole	5/1/2000
Miller, Anna	Eagle River	5/8/2000
Eluska, Kathryn	Fairbanks	5/19/2000
Devries, Jessie M	Palmer	6/1/2000

## Active Wait List

Hensley, Ruby	Fairbanks	6/14/2000
Harmon, Hazel	Anchorage	6/23/2000
Hayes, Shirley	Fairbanks	7/7/2000
Smith, Richard	Anchorage	7/14/2000
Kangas, Albert	Galena	7/24/2000
Klattig, Ida	Fairbanks	7/27/2000
Bagley, Caroline	Fairbanks	8/3/2000
Hiland, Richard	Ester	8/8/2000
Hasha, Martha	Fairbanks	8/11/2000
Ayotte, Theima	Fairbanks	8/14/2000
Storrs, Henry	Fairbanks	8/14/2000
Moratzka, Earl	Fairbanks	8/21/2000
Redman, James	Fairbanks	9/8/2000
Stanford, Dorothy	Fairbanks	9/8/2000
Cooke, Kathrine	Fairbanks	9/26/2000
Stockburger, William	Homer	9/27/2000
Recknor, Marion	Anchorage	10/6/2000
Blackstad, William A	Anchorage	11/3/2000
Allen, Dorothy M	Sitka	11/6/2000
Neubauer, Mary	Fairbanks	11/9/2000
Creamer, Donald	Fairbanks	11/20/2000
Ford, Grace	North Pole	11/27/2000
Titus, Annie	Minto	1/10/2001
Vincent, Sherman A	Ward Cove	1/19/2001
Ordiway, Eleanor	Fairbanks	1/29/2001
Strack, Vera	North Pole	1/31/2001
Brown, Lena T	Anchorage	2/5/2001
Starr, Ann L	Ketchikan	2/8/2001
Martin, Daniel	Juneau	2/13/2001
Friborg, Coral	Fairbanks	2/23/2001
Friborg, Obert	Fairbanks	2/23/2001
Robinson, Dorothy	Fairbanks	2/28/2001
Dodson, Dolores	Fairbanks	3/6/2001
Tickell, Diane B	Auke Bay	3/7/2001
Legerat, Elaine	Fairbanks	3/12/2001
McInerney, Kenneth	Fairbanks	3/12/2001
Geiger, Frank	Fairbanks	3/19/2001
Hanson, Arnold	Fairbanks	3/27/2001
Clarneau Sr, Glenn	Fairbanks	4/2/2001
Larsen, Elizabeth M	Juneau	4/3/2001
Hutte, Arthur J	Ketchikan	4/4/2001
David, Cecilia B	Haines	4/9/2001
Palmer, Twanda	Anchorage	4/23/2001
Sewell, Leslie	Fairbanks	4/23/2001
Bernard Jr, John	Anchorage	4/24/2001
Mitchell, Imelda	Ketchikan	5/2/2001
Sanford, Robert	Anchorage	5/7/2001
Moore, Barbara J	Anchorage	5/9/2001
Hall, Robert	Whittier	5/14/2001
Spurgin, Vivian	Fairbanks	5/27/2001
Wheeler, Martha	Fairbanks	6/6/2001
Dosert, Ramona	Fairbanks	6/7/2001

## Active Wait List

Slater, Dorothy	Fairbanks	6/11/2001
Charles, Cecil D	Ketchikan	6/13/2001
Jones, Billy P	Douglas	6/15/2001
Dawson, Ruth	Kenai	6/18/2001
Craddick, Jan	Palmer	6/26/2001
Ulmer, Irene	Fairbanks	7/5/2001
Coffin III, George	Anchorage	7/12/2001
Hardy, Ebba	Anchorage	7/25/2001
Milne, Dorothy M	Metlakatla	8/1/2001
Towse, Norma	Fairbanks	8/3/2001
Siverly, Richard	Sitka	8/10/2001
Johnson, William	Palmer	8/13/2001
Monroe, Senia	Anchorage	8/15/2001
Fett, Lee	Delta Junction	8/16/2001
Kahl, Thelma	Fairbanks	8/20/2001
Lyman, Maxine	Anchorage	8/22/2001
Vetter, Roudolph	Fairbanks	8/28/2001
Kienle, Mary	Fairbanks	8/30/2001
Demientieff, Mary	Nenana	9/4/2001
Pierce, Donald	Anchorage	9/4/2001
Henrikson, Mildred I	Ward Cove	9/6/2001
McDougal, Ronald	Fairbanks	9/12/2001
McGuire, Marey	Petersburg	9/12/2001
Tarpenning, Lloyd	Fairbanks	9/20/2001
Edmonds, Doris E	Palmer	9/21/2001
Hogan, Robert	North Pole	9/26/2001
Dornath, George	Fairbanks	9/28/2001
Hollywood, Carol A	Ward Cove	9/28/2001
Rien, Terry	Fairbanks	10/7/2001
Bablinskis, Marie	Fairbanks	10/8/2001
Cole, Annette R	Wasilla	10/12/2001
Giddings, Jane C	Ketchikan	10/12/2001
Tyler, Eleanor	Fairbanks	10/19/2001
Bishop, Frances	Fairbanks	10/25/2001
Bishop, Mervin	Fairbanks	10/25/2001
Leach, Elizabeth	Juneau	10/26/2001
Whiteman, Grace	Sitka	11/2/2001
Miller, Dorothy E	Ketchikan	11/5/2001
Han, Il	Anchorage	11/7/2001
Sharp, Cleo	Anchorage	11/9/2001
Lehman, Roland	Fairbanks	11/12/2001
Coile, Arthur	Ketchikan	11/14/2001
Houk, Alethea E	Sitka	11/14/2001
Olsen, Tyra I	Ward Cove	11/15/2001
Dunkelberger, Patricia	Sitka	11/16/2001
Skelton, Jean	Eagle River	11/20/2001
Kroon, Karl	Wasilla	12/3/2001
Javaux, Lucille	Anchorage	12/5/2001
Fulton, John	Wasilla	12/6/2001
Martin, Irene L	Ketchikan	12/7/2001
Pitka, William	Beaver	12/7/2001
Trambitas, Jack	Juneau	12/8/2001

Active Wait List

Schmitz, Ruth	Juneau	12/16/2001
Peterson, Shirley A	Willow	12/17/2001
Parker, Richard L	Ketchikan	12/20/2001
Hoffman, Hilda L	Juneau	12/31/2001
Hoffman, Jacob L	Juneau	12/31/2001
Ccrey, Jack	Anchorage	1/4/2002
Thompson, Thelma A	Ketchikan	1/7/2002
Keener, David	North Pole	1/8/2002
Wiedman, Robert	Fairbanks	1/9/2002
Arlow, Alexander	Cordova	1/14/2002
Lausterer, Gladys	Anchorage	1/14/2002
Thompson, Gladys	Anchorage	1/14/2002
Riley, Burke	Juneau	1/15/2002
Trastek, Russell W	Fairbanks	1/15/2002
Nussmaumer, June	Fairbanks	1/25/2002
Shockey, Rose	Fairbanks	1/29/2002
Wack, Laura M	Ketchikan	1/30/2002
Eickhof, Donald	Anchorage	2/4/2002
Young, Rita	Anchorage	2/5/2002
Laird, Mary F	Ketchikan	2/7/2002
Ludwigsen, Thelma	Ketchikan	2/25/2002
Olson, Della N	Ketchikan	2/26/2002
Keeney, Bernice	Fairbanks	2/28/2002
Johnson, George	Sitka	3/4/2002
Brundage, Helen	Palmer	3/7/2002
Chesnut, Annie	Anchorage	3/11/2002
Roa, Salvador	Anchorage	3/11/2002
Conlow, Augusta	Anchorage	3/14/2002
McCarthy, Lydia	Wasilla	3/19/2002
Cook, Jeraldine	Fairbanks	3/21/2002
Wyller, Christian	Juneau	3/21/2002
Kilbourne, Nora	Wasilla	3/26/2002
Lemery, Noreen	Eagle River	4/4/2002
Milton, Irmgard	Wasilla	4/11/2002
Charles, Paul	Ketchikan	4/24/2002
Farrington, Milton	Salcha	4/29/2002
Ingledue, Franklin	Juneau	4/30/2002
Moreno, Nancy	Sitka	5/1/2002
Lang, Mildred J	Juneau	5/3/2002
Doggett, Mary	Wasilla	5/6/2002
Noreen, Ida M	Douglas	5/6/2002
McFarland, John	Soldotna	5/20/2002

Bold= Veterans

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA, I WANT TO THANK THE GOVERNOR, THE ALASKA VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE THIS TRULY A "YEAR OF THE VETERAN" IN ALASKA.

THE RENAMING OF BRIDGES TO HONOR THOSE WHO DIED SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND THOSE WHO RECEIVED ITS HIGHEST MILITARY DECORATION IS A NOBLE AND TIME TESTED WAY TO GIVE PUBLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE TO COUNTRY.

THE CONTINUATION OF LOW INTEREST VETERANS' HOME LOANS WILL FINANCIALLY BENEFIT THOSE WHO QUALIFY.

THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS TO CONTINUE ASSISTING VETERANS IN FILING CLAIMS FOR SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES WILL CERTAINLY SERVE A WORTHY CAUSE.

THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT BILL DISCUSSED HERE TODAY SHOWS THE STATE HAS ACCEPTED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ITS COMMITMENT TO VETERANS.

THE APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 FOR A STUDY THAT WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A VA APPROVED FACILITY TO CARE FOR VETERANS OF ALL AGES EXEMPLIFIES FURTHER COMMITMENT BY THE STATE.

ONE CHALLENGE REMAINS FOR THE LEGISLATURE. THAT CHALLENGE WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE SPECIAL SESSION BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. IT IS THE DECISION TO APPROPRIATE \$2.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO FUND STAFFING FOR 100 VACANT BEDS IN THE PIONEERS' HOME. THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN TORN ASUNDER BY PARTISAN POLITICS TO A POINT THAT I BELIEVE IF THE DEVIL HIMSELF HAD SUBMITTED THE ORIGINAL BILLS

INSTEAD OF THE GOVERNOR, THE VETERANS WOULD HAVE HAD AN EASIER TIME GETTING THEM PASSED. I ASK THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO MAY SEE THIS TO LEAVE THEIR POLITICAL SHROUDS AT HOME WHEN THEY GO TO JUNEAU NEXT WEEK TO DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE. I ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER THE GOOD THIS APPROPRIATION WILL DO FOR SENIOR VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS ALIKE. I ASK THAT YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNOR PUT THIS APPROPRIATION IN AT THE REQUEST OF THE DAV, VFW AND AMERICAN LEGION, NOT AT THE SUGGESTION OR PERSUASION OF THE GOVERNOR. WHEN CASTING YOUR VOTE ON THIS BILL, I ASK THAT YOU DO WHAT IS RIGHT.



DEAN HILL  
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

To: Jill Daniels

From: Governor's Office

Jun 19 2002 9:19 AST Page 2/2

64630-Ron

cc: LO

GRAND IGLOO  
**PIONEERS OF ALASKA**  
ORGANIZED AUGUST 4, 1908



OFFICE OF PAST GRAND PRESIDENT

RECEIVED  
JUN 17 2002  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

June 11, 2002

Governor Tony Knowles  
State Capitol Bldg.  
P. O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles:

The Grand Igloo Pioneers of Alaska support full funding for the Pioneer Homes. There are many seniors that require advanced levels of care now awaiting the opportunity for admission. Hopefully, funding will be forthcoming, adequate to open up a substantial number of the 100 vacant beds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Huffman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bob Huffman  
Chr. Of Grand Igloo  
Govt. Affairs Committee



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## Alaska Commission on Aging

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### Resolution 2002-10

#### In support of funding for the Pioneers and Veterans Home proposal

Whereas, the Pioneers Homes operated by the State of Alaska are a remarkable long-term care resource to Alaskans age 65+ and their families, and

Whereas, the Alaska Commission on Aging has previously endorsed the creation of a "Pioneers' and Veterans' Home" system, and

Whereas, the Alaska State Legislature passed legislation to create such a system, and

Whereas, the legislation passed sets in place a framework for generating new federal veterans funding to assist in paying for Alaska veterans long-term care received in the Pioneer Homes, and

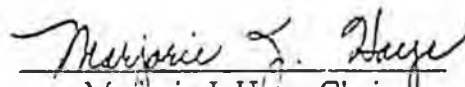
Whereas, the full potential of the Pioneers' and Veterans' Home program cannot be realized without additional funding to upgrade the level of care of unfilled beds within the Pioneers' Homes, and

Whereas, there continues to be an active waiting list of over 180 applicants seeking immediate admission to the Alaska Pioneer Home system, and

Whereas, both veteran and non-veteran Alaskan Pioneers would benefit from increasing the number of beds available to meet the needs of seniors on the Pioneer Home waiting lists,

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Commission on Aging supports legislation appropriating the additional general funds and pioneer home receipts necessary to make full use of the Alaska Pioneer Home system, and urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass this much needed funding during the second special legislative session of 2002.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2002.

  
Marjorie J. Hays, Chair

June 20, 2002

The Honorable Tony Knowles  
Governor, State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Gov. Knowles:

The members of the Interior Veteran's Coalition wish to join with the Departments of Alaska of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Legion in supporting funding for the Pioneers' Home and the proposed Pioneers' and Veterans' Home system.

We support your introduction and passage, during the upcoming special legislative session, an appropriations bill for \$2.6 million in operating funds to begin filling vacant beds.

Please feel free to share this letter of support with the appropriate legislative committees. Thank you for your support of veterans and housing for aging vets.

Sincerely,



Raymond E. Clark, Chair  
Legislative Committee

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

This memorandum for the record has been developed in teleconference discussions among Marsha Goodwin, Acting Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs; James Kohn, Director, Division of Alaska Longevity Programs; and John Taber, Associate Director, Washington, D.C. Office of the Governor of Alaska, during the period of April 1-5, 2002.

The parties to this memorandum agree as follows:

The federal Veterans' Affairs State Home Per Diem Grant program provides financial assistance to veterans in state VA homes within a framework of federal VA standards and regulations that do not presently allow for VA financial support of Alaskan veterans in the proposed Alaska Pioneers' & Veterans' Homes. It is agreed that the VA and the state of Alaska will work cooperatively to seek solutions to the issues that exist, including, if needed, federal legislation which would allow for VA support of veterans in the Alaska Pioneers' & Veterans' Home while preserving the ownership, independence, and authority of the state to operate and manage this unique long term care program. We agree that we will seek common ground for a demonstration that preserves both the character of Alaska's Pioneers' homes and the required standards of care for eligible Veterans.

As we work toward those solutions, we accept as governing principles the following:

Alaska's Pioneers' Homes are designed and managed as long-term assisted living facilities. There is no present intention to expand their role to include skilled nursing functions. The state of Alaska relies on agreements with private nursing homes and public and private hospitals to provide skilled nursing and hospital care as it is needed by Pioneers' Home residents.

Similarly, there is no present intention to expand the role of the Pioneers' homes to include Adult Day Care, because facilities that provide Adult Day Care already exist in most communities where the Pioneers' Homes are located and it would duplicate capacity to add that function to the Pioneers' Homes.

The state of Alaska seeks to ultimately include all six of the existing Pioneers' Homes in the Pioneers' Home/Veterans' Home program and seeks to integrate Pioneers and Veterans to the maximum extent practicable within those facilities.

The state of Alaska seeks to preserve the essence of the Pioneers' Home concept by continuing to use the admission and eligibility standards and cost sharing procedures and

policies that have served the Pioneers' Homes well for 89 years. We agree to work to find solutions to issues that such existing policies may create for veterans who qualify for assistance but do not fit within state admission and eligibility standards.

As we continue the discussions that we intend will lead to the necessary agreements and/or legislation to permit the Veterans Affairs State Home Per Diem Grant Program to operate in Alaska's Pioneers' Homes/Veterans' Homes, we agree to periodically provide information updates to Veterans and Veterans' Affairs officials in Alaska concerning those discussions.

SIGNED:

Marsha Goodwin, Veterans' Affairs

James Kohn, Alaska Longevity Programs

John Taber, Office of the Governor of Alaska



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

April 2, 2002

Jim Duncan  
Commissioner  
Department of Administration  
333 Willoughby Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
State Office Building  
Juneau, AK

Dear Mr. Duncan

This is in response to your letter regarding establishment of a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Alaska's Pioneer Homes. I appreciate your desire to meet the needs of veterans within the framework of the Pioneer Homes.

I fully support efforts that would enable VA and the State of Alaska to work cooperatively to address the elder care needs of Alaska's veterans. I understand the first step is to establish the Pioneer and Veterans Homes, and there is legislation pending to accomplish this. Once this legislation is enacted, I will be pleased to explore options for the provision of long term care for Alaska's veterans, to include the flexibilities of our State Veterans Homes and Contract Community Nursing Homes programs. I have enclosed some information on our State Veterans and Contract Community Nursing Home programs that I hope you will find helpful. What is paramount is assuring that the needs of Alaska's veterans and VA's standards for nursing home care are met.

Marsha Goodwin, Acting Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs, is available to meet with representatives of the Pioneer Homes and Alaska State officials to further discuss these options. If you should have any questions, she may be reached at 202-273-6540. A similar letter has been sent to Major General Phillip Oates, Adjutant General/Commissioner and appropriate members of Congress. I look forward to a continued working relationship with you to better meet the needs of Alaska's veterans.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony J. Principi".

Anthony J. Principi

Enclosures



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON  
April 2, 2002

General Phillip Oates, Commissioner  
Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs  
State of Alaska  
The National Guard Armory, Suite C-222  
P.O. Box 5800  
Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-0800

Dear General Oates:

This is in response to your letter regarding establishment of a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Alaska's Pioneer Homes. I appreciate your desire to meet the needs of veterans within the framework of the Pioneer Homes.

I fully support efforts that would enable VA and the State of Alaska to work cooperatively to address the elder care needs of Alaska's veterans. I understand the first step is to establish the Pioneer and Veterans Homes, and there is legislation pending to accomplish this. Once this legislation is enacted, I will be pleased to explore options for the provision of long term care for Alaska's veterans, to include the flexibilities of our State Veterans Homes and Contract Community Nursing Homes programs. I have enclosed some information on our State Veterans and Contract Community Nursing Home programs that I hope you will find helpful. What is paramount is assuring that the needs of Alaska's veterans and VA's standards for nursing home care are met.

Marsha Goodwin, Acting Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs, is available to meet with representatives of the Pioneer Homes and Alaska State officials to further discuss these options. If you should have any questions, she may be reached at 202-273-8540. A similar letter has been sent to Mr. Jim Duncan, Commissioner and appropriate members of Congress. I look forward to a continued working relationship with you to better meet the needs of Alaska's veterans.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony J. Principi".

Anthony J. Principi

Enclosures



**TONY KNOWLES**  
GOVERNOR  
[governor@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.ak.us)

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
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June 17, 2002

The Honorable Frank Murkowski  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0202

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I seek your assistance in obtaining new authority under federal law for much needed cash benefits for veterans in Alaska. I noted with considerable interest your recent press release concerning legislation to authorize construction of State Veterans Home (SVH) facilities in Alaska. As I understand it, the primary thrust of your legislation is to authorize up to \$16 million in federal funding for such facilities, while waiving the usual requirement for state matching funds. As you know, the state Legislature has passed legislation that would, among other things, provide funding for a study of the need for such facilities. This study could serve as the predicate for future decisions to use such federal authority, if it were on the books.

You also are undoubtedly aware of the Legislature's passage of legislation I introduced to set aside a portion of the beds in Alaska's six Pioneers Homes for the use of qualifying veterans. The legislation provides for a change in the name of the homes to reflect their new status as combined pioneers' and veterans' homes, and authorizes us to enter into a pilot program with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide VA per diem payments to the veterans who live in the homes now, or who will enter the homes in the future under the newly established preference system. The effectiveness of the legislation is conditioned upon negotiation of an agreement with the VA. In turn, the ability of the VA to negotiate such an agreement with Alaska, we are told, is conditioned on passage of authorizing per diem legislation at the federal level.

Because you are a member of the Veterans Committee and have most closely followed veterans' issues, I am requesting your assistance in securing the necessary federal legislation to authorize the proposed pilot program. It is evident that such a program would provide a strong complement to any potential VA-funded construction in the future, while helping Alaska's veterans by opening up more beds in the pioneers' and veterans' homes almost immediately. In addition, the per diem payments for which Alaska's veterans would qualify would provide a modest, but welcome infusion of new

The Honorable Frank Murkowski  
June 17, 2002  
Page 2

funding into the state system, both now and over the long haul. Alaska's veterans see the value in both initiatives and seem prepared to lend their support to both efforts. In short, it would appear to be desirable to have both the pilot program and the option to expand or remodel facilities, but each of these requires its separate authorizing legislation.

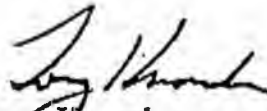
My staff has had preliminary discussions with officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs which have determined the scope of the required legislation to authorize a pilot program to make per diem payments to veterans in our pioneers' and veterans' homes. We have jointly determined that the only issue separating existing federal law from the current operation of our state homes is the mix of veterans and non-veterans in the homes. Because the homes do not consider veteran status currently in placement decisions, we cannot satisfy the VA requirement that no more than 25 percent of the residents of the facility in which per diem payments are paid be non-veterans.

The federal legislation we need would waive that provision of current law for purposes of this pilot project. In our discussions with VA staff, we have agreed this waiver would apply to facilities that had been constructed without the use of federal VA funds, as is the case with all six Pioneers' homes. At the suggestion of the VA officials, we have agreed that the pilot period would be three years, and that the project would be evaluated during the final year, with a view to seeking permanent authorizing legislation if the pilot proves successful.

My recommendation is that we pursue this authorization of the per diem pilot separately from other Alaska-specific VA legislation in order to reduce the potential for confusion and in recognition of the fact that your construction authorization has already cleared the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I welcome this opportunity to work together for the benefit of Alaska's veterans and look forward to hearing from you. My staff stands ready to work with you and your staff in the preparation of suitable legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Tony Knowles  
Governor

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Anchorage Daily News

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**Murkowski seeks vet home funds****PROPOSAL:** Senator asks for \$16 million to add space in Pioneers' Homes.

By Liz Ruskin

Anchorage Daily News

*(Published: June 8, 2002)*

Washington -- Sen. Frank Murkowski is proposing up to \$16 million in federal construction funds to add new wings or floors to Alaska Pioneers' Homes to serve veterans.

Murkowski, R-Alaska, amended a Senate bill this week to also allow the state-operated Pioneers' Homes to collect federal money for housing veterans.

The bill is awaiting action by the Senate.

The administration of Gov. Tony Knowles, though, says Murkowski's measure won't meet immediate needs.

"He wants to spend \$16 million to create more beds that would presumably be empty, unless the state comes up with operating funds," said Knowles spokesman Bob King.

The Pioneers' Homes already have 100 empty beds. They're empty because the state doesn't have the money to fully staff the homes.

Knowles is calling on the Alaska Legislature to spend \$2.6 million in a special session later this month to fill the empty beds with veterans.

Both Knowles' proposal and Murkowski's call for allowing the state to collect reimbursement from the Veterans Administration for housing veterans.

Jim Duncan, the state commissioner of administration, said he is also seeking a waiver that would allow veterans and other home residents to live together, rather than in segregated facilities.

Some 95 vets now live in the six homes. If the state could collect per diem payments from the VA, they would total \$1.6 million a year, Duncan said.

The Legislature, which balked at the \$2.6 million to staff the Pioneers' Home during its regular session, has budgeted \$250,000 to conduct a study on veterans housing.

The \$16 million Murkowski is seeking would probably be useful once the study is complete, Duncan said.

"We should first utilize what we have and serve the veteran immediately," Duncan said.

Duncan said he's been working with the Veterans Administration for four months on the plan. Other than one meeting last year, Duncan said he hasn't been coordinating his efforts with Murkowski, even though Murkowski sits on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Murkowski, a Republican, is running for governor. The front-running Democrat, Fran Ulmer, is Knowles' lieutenant governor.

Murkowski's spokesman, Chuck Kleeschulte, said the bill in no way interferes with Knowles' effort to get the money to fill the empty beds.

"This will not cost the state a dime in capital costs and will ensure that the federal government for the first time will reimburse the state for a portion of the costs they currently bear to house veterans," Murkowski said in a written statement.

Reporter Liz Ruskin can be reached at 202-383-0007 or [lruskin@adn.com](mailto:lruskin@adn.com).