

**HB**

**184**

**HFIN**

**FILE**



New

adopted

AMENDMENT

# 2

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY: REP. GARA

TO: HB184(MLV)

Page 1, lines 2:

Insert

**"relating to registration of vehicles for disabled person;"**

Page 2, line 9, following "privileges":

**Insert ". A disabled person who otherwise qualifies for a registration plate under (2)(B) of this subsection may elect to receive a plate under another provision of this section for which the person is otherwise qualified that does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special parking privileges"**

Page 2, following line 21:

Insert a new bill section to read:

**\*\*Sec. 3. AS 28.10.411(f) is amended to read:**

**(f) A resident 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the year the vehicle is registered or a resident with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and who provides proof of that disability as provided in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2 is entitled to an exemption from the registration fee required under this section for one vehicle subject to registration under AS 28.10.421(b)(1), (2), (5), or (6). An exemption may not be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form prescribed by the department."**

Renumber the following bill accordingly.

*adopted*

AMENDMENT

3

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER

TO: CS HB 184 (MLV)

1 Page 2, line 15, following "may issue"

2 Delete "'Support Our Troops' registration plates to supporters of Support Out Troops, Inc."

3 Insert "registration plates commemorating and supporting troops."

4

5 Page 2, line 23, following (17)

6 Delete "Support Our Troops"

7

8 Page 2, line 31, following "legislature"

9 Delete "to Support Our Troops, Inc., for the benefit of the troops and their families in  
10 accordance with its articles of incorporation and bylaws."

11 Insert "solely for the purpose of providing benefits within the state of Alaska to troops and  
12 their families."

*adopted*

25-LS0621\K.1  
Luckhaupt  
4/23/07

New AMENDMENT |

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 184(MLV)

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

1 Page 1, line 2, following "veterans;":

2 Insert "relating to mandatory motor vehicle insurance, license suspensions,  
3 ~~mandatory impoundments of vehicles used in certain offenses,~~ and notices relating to  
4 motor vehicles and driver's licenses;"

5  
6 Page 1, following line 3:

7 Insert a new bill section to read:

8 **\*\* Section 1.** AS 28.05.071 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (b) A person convicted of a violation of (a) of this section is guilty of an  
10 infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$300."

11  
12 Page 1, line 4:

13 Delete "Section 1"

14 Insert "Sec. 2"

15  
16 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

17  
18 Page 3, following line 2:

19 Insert new bill sections to read:

20 **# Sec. 5.** AS 28.15.291 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 (d) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under (a) of this section that  
22 the person's license was suspended under AS 28.22.041 and the person provides proof  
23 of liability insurance meeting the requirements of AS 28.22 and proof that the

1 insurance was in effect at the time of the accident that led to the suspension.

2 \* Sec. 6. AS 28.22.019 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (d) A person convicted under this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor  
4 and may be punished as provided in AS 12.55, except that a fine of at least \$500 must  
5 be imposed.

6 \* Sec. 7. AS 28.22.041(f) is amended to read:

7 (f) The department shall notify the licensee that the suspension becomes  
8 effective 30 days from the date of the notice and that the licensee has the right, within  
9 the 30-day period, to make an oral or written answer controverting any point or issue,  
10 or to present evidence and arguments for the consideration of the department.  
11 Notwithstanding AS 28.05.121, the department shall provide this notice to the  
12 address that appears to be the most recently provided from among the following:

13 (1) the address the department has for the person;

14 (2) the address shown on the report of the accident.

15 ~~\* Sec. 8. AS 28.40 is amended by adding a new section to read: —~~

16 ~~Sec. 28.40.080. Impoundment of motor vehicle when person arrested for~~  
17 ~~certain offenses. On the arrest of a person for a violation of AS 28.15.291;~~  
18 ~~AS 28.33.030, 28.33.031; AS 28.35.030 or 28.35.032, the motor vehicle used in the~~  
19 ~~commission of the offense shall be impounded. The cost of towing and storage of the~~  
20 ~~vehicle is a lien on the vehicle. If another person claims an ownership or security~~  
21 ~~interest in the motor vehicle and establishes that the interest predated the offense and~~  
22 ~~was acquired by the other person in good faith, the vehicle may be released to that~~  
23 ~~other person if the person pays the accrued cost of towing and storage of the vehicle."~~  
24

25 Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

26

27 Page 3, line 3:

28 Delete "This Act takes"

29 Insert "Sections 2 - 4 of this Act take"

Proposed  
by Mr. Carter

4-27

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 184(MLV)

Page 3, line 2.

Insert

"The department will annually verify the current status of Support Our Troops Inc.'s 501(c)(3), and that the license plate proceeds are being used for proper purposes. Support Our Troops, Inc. shall provide the department an annual report of expenditures related to the license plate proceeds."

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2007

**SUBJECT:** CSHB 184(FIN)

**TO:** Representative Mike Chenault  
Representative Kevin Meyer  
Cc-Chairs of the House Finance Committee

**FROM:** Pam Finley *PF*  
Revisor of Statutes

Enclosed is the referenced CS. Note that committee amendment #3 inserted the language "appropriated by the legislature solely for the purpose of providing benefits within the State of Alaska to troops and their families" in AS 28.10.421(d)(17), added by sec. 5 of the bill. See page 3, line 20. The use of the word "solely" makes this look like a dedicated fund, which is prohibited by art. IX, sec. 7 of the state constitution. Accordingly, this language may be unconstitutional.

PF:med  
07-276.med

Enclosure

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 184(FIN)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**

**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ROSES, Lynn, Dahlstrom**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to a commemorative troops license plate and to license plates available**  
2 **to disabled veterans; relating to mandatory motor vehicle insurance, license suspensions,**  
3 **mandatory impoundments of vehicles used in certain offenses, and notices relating to**  
4 **motor vehicles and driver's licenses; relating to registration of vehicles for disabled**  
5 **persons; and providing for an effective date."**

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

7 **\* Section 1. AS 28.05.071 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:**

8 (b) A person convicted of a violation of (a) of this section is guilty of an  
9 infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$300.

10 **\* Sec. 2. AS 28.10.181(d) is amended to read:**

11 (d) Vehicles owned by veterans with disabilities, including persons disabled in  
12 the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard, or other persons with  
13 disabilities. Upon the request of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the

1 ability to walk, as defined in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2, the department shall (1) register one  
 2 motor vehicle in the name of the person without charge; and (2) issue a specially  
 3 designed registration plate that displays (A) recognition of the disabled veteran if the  
 4 applicant's disability originated from the applicant's service with the Alaska Territorial  
 5 Guard or the armed forces of the United States; (B) the international symbol of  
 6 accessibility (the wheelchair logo); and (C) if the applicant is a veteran, the Alaska and  
 7 United States flags and red, white, and blue colors. A person who is not otherwise  
 8 qualified under this subsection, but who meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran  
 9 under AS 29.45.030(i), may register one motor vehicle without charge, and the  
 10 department shall issue a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition  
 11 of the disabled veteran that does not display the international symbol of accessibility  
 12 and does not carry with it special parking privileges. A disabled veteran who  
 13 otherwise qualifies for a registration plate under this subsection may elect to  
 14 receive a plate under (p) or (q) of this section for which the person is otherwise  
 15 qualified that does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does  
 16 not carry with it special parking privileges. A disabled person who otherwise  
 17 qualifies for a registration plate under (2)(B) of this subsection may elect to  
 18 receive a plate under another provision of this section for which the person is  
 19 otherwise qualified that does not display the international symbol of accessibility  
 20 and does not carry with it special parking privileges. For purposes of this  
 21 subsection, proof of disability may be provided by a person licensed as a physician or  
 22 physician assistant under AS 08.64 or as an advanced nurse practitioner under  
 23 AS 08.68.

24 \* Sec. 3. AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 (x) Special request plates commemorating and supporting troops. Upon  
 26 application by the owner of a motor vehicle, the department may issue registration  
 27 plates commemorating and supporting troops. The commissioner, in consultation with  
 28 Support Our Troops, Inc. shall determine the design and color of the plates. The  
 29 department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection  
 30 when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration. "Support Our  
 31 Troops" shall appear at the bottom of the plate and may be alternated with "Support

Our Heroes" if Support Our Troops, Inc., agrees to be responsible for any costs incurred from lack of sale of plates.

\* Sec. 4. AS 28.10.411(f) is amended to read:

(f) A resident 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the year the vehicle is registered or a resident with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and who provides proof of that disability as provided in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2 is entitled to an exemption from the registration fee required under this section for one vehicle subject to registration under AS 28.10.421(b)(1), (2), (5), or (6). An exemption may not be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form prescribed by the department.

\* Sec. 5. AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(17) special request plates commemorating and supporting troops ..... \$40 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the \$40 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected on issuance and biennial renewal in the same manner as the fee required under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the commissioner of administration shall separately account for the fees received under this paragraph that the department deposits in the general fund; notwithstanding (g) of this section, the annual estimated balance in the account that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request plates may be appropriated by the legislature solely for the purpose of providing benefits within the State of Alaska to troops and their families.

\* Sec. 6. AS 28.15.291 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under (a) of this section that the person's license was suspended under AS 28.22.041 and the person provides proof of liability insurance meeting the requirements of AS 28.22 and proof that the insurance was in effect at the time of the accident that led to the suspension.

\* Sec. 7. AS 28.22.019 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) A person convicted under this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor and may be punished as provided in AS 12.55, except that a fine of at least \$500 must be imposed.

\* Sec. 8. AS 28.22.041(f) is amended to read:

1 (f) The department shall notify the licensee that the suspension becomes  
2 effective 30 days from the date of the notice and that the licensee has the right, within  
3 the 30-day period, to make an oral or written answer controverting any point or issue,  
4 or to present evidence and arguments for the consideration of the department.  
5 Notwithstanding AS 28.05.121, the department shall provide this notice to the  
6 address that appears to be the most recently provided from among the following:

7 (1) the address the department has for the person;

8 (2) the address shown on the report of the accident.

9 \* Sec. 9. AS 28.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Sec. 28.40.080. Impoundment of motor vehicle when person arrested for**  
11 **certain offenses.** On the arrest of a person for a violation of AS 28.15.291;  
12 AS 28.33.030, 28.33.031; AS 28.35.030 or 28.35.032, the motor vehicle used in the  
13 commission of the offense shall be impounded. The cost of towing and storage of the  
14 vehicle is a lien on the vehicle. If another person claims an ownership or security  
15 interest in the motor vehicle and establishes that the interest predated the offense and  
16 was acquired by the other person in good faith, the vehicle may be released to that  
17 other person if the person pays the accrued cost of towing and storage of the vehicle.

18 \* Sec. 10. Sections 2 - 5 of this Act take effect July 1, 2007.

*P.D. of  
Amend 3*

**HB 184 text with adoption of Amendment #3**

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(x) Special request plates commemorating and supporting troops. Upon application by the owner of a motor vehicle, the department may issue registration plates commemorating and supporting troops. ~~"Support Our Troops"-registration plates to supporters of Support Our Troops, Inc.~~ The commissioner, in consultation with Support Our Troops, Inc., shall determine the design and color of the plates. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration. "Support Our Troops" shall appear at the bottom of the plate and may be alternated with "Support Our Heroes" if Support Our Troops, Inc., agrees to be responsible for any costs incurred from lack of sale of plates.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(17) ~~"Support Our Troops"-special request plates commemorating and supporting troops~~ ..... plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the \$40 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected on issuance and biennial renewal in the same manner as the fee required under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the commissioner of administration shall separately account for the fees received under this paragraph that the department deposits in the general fund; notwithstanding (g) of this section, the annual estimated balance in the account that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request plates may be appropriated by the legislature solely for the purpose of providing benefits within the state of Alaska to troops and their families. ~~to Support Our Troops, Inc., for the benefit of the troops and their families in accordance with its articles of incorporation and bylaws.~~

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives



Official Business

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

### SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR CS HB 184 (MLV) BY: Representative Bob Roses

**TITLE:** "An Act relating to a commemorative troops license plate and to license plates available to disabled veterans; and providing for an effective date."

CS HB184 (MLV) action brings the Support Our Troops license plate to Alaska, sponsored by Support Our Troops®. SOT® will soon have caused the issuance of Official Support Our Troops plates in some 40 states, with around 20 being completed in 2006 (many unanimously by their Legislatures), and the necessities in place for issuance in about 16 more in 2007, including: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Founded by civilians as a concrete statement of thanks to the troops for their service, Support Our Troops® is a 501(c) (3) national public-benefit charity group dedicated to assisting the troops and their families in the century to come. SOT is the embodiment of the moral obligation of those of us who do not serve, to those who do. It is civilians voluntarily offering what is morally owed. The purpose of SOT is to facilitate public displays of support for America's troops through various means, and to raise money to actually help them by financially bolstering their families post September 11, 2001. SOT provides simple means through which America's families can protect the integrity of their troops' families, while the troops are off protecting all of our families -- whether in a peacekeeping mission, a war, or a hurricane, flood, or other disaster. SOT's business model is to create recurring revenue streams so that its promises to the families can be dependable.

SOT is one of the safest national charities, with checks and balances in place that include among others: annual supervision by each of about 35 state Attorneys General and Auditors General across America; independent accounting firm dischargeable only by whole Board of Directors; annual reporting and review in each of about 35 states on Form 990; IRS-approved Conflict of Interest Policy; certain legal matters handled by Arnold & Porter and Baker & McKenzie.

Additionally, CS HB 184 (MLV) allows qualified disabled veterans to elect to receive a plate that does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special parking privileges.

I urge your support of this legislation.



OVERVIEW



They Support Us -- *Let's Support Them!*™



## **Support Our Troops, Inc.**

### **Disbursement Methodology Policy**

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 9-20-2005, REVISED 8-25-06

#### **Background**

It is SOT policy to make distributions to the maximum extent possible by using local Disbursement Boards and by using existing military charitable entities, coupled with a set of disbursement priorities. It is SOT's preference to only occasionally make direct distributions to individual recipients, unless that method is deemed best for purposes of local officials. SOT prefers to function as a revenue-generating organization, and have the functions of determination of entitlement and need performed by local Disbursement Boards and by existing military charitable entities, all based on a set of disbursement priorities.

#### **Guiding Principal**

SOT is trying to meet the worst needs first based on the Western principal of women and children first.

#### **Disbursement Boards**

One or more local Disbursement Boards are being established in each state as the best method of promptly and privately meeting the needs of the local troops and their families with immediate local knowledge.

The local Disbursement Boards will be constituted from designees of the various services, and will serve without compensation as adjunct duties to their normal duties in their services. These designees may be assembled from assistance disbursement officers, readiness officers, and the like, from within each service, because they know their local families and troops, who needs assistance, and are most likely to have a relationship with the applicable branches or agencies. They will have current local knowledge which alleviates delays and problems created by the privacy act. The local Disbursement Boards will follow guidelines regarding determination of entitlement, degree of need, and procedure. They will make decisions using those guidelines, forms and procedures. SOT may adopt and use existing application forms and procedures familiar to service members from within the services. The local Disbursement Boards may also disburse based on pre-screened and qualified recipients referred to them by other military charities and agencies in accordance with these procedures. The local Disbursement Boards will be lodged with the military charities as a referral resource.

This methodology enables SOT to promptly meet the needs of local troops and their families, because the local Disbursement Board has immediate local personal knowledge of who needs what. They are comprised of local faces that the troops and

Support Our Troops, Inc.

Policy -- Disbursement Methodology Policy -- 9-20-05; revised 8-25-06

1 of 2



## **Support Our Troops, Inc.**

### **Disbursement Methodology Policy**

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 9-20-2005, REVISED 8-25-06

their families currently know and deal with. They will be less hampered by privacy act restrictions which inhibit information exchange between federal and state levels, between agencies, and between branches, and frequently frustrate even agencies and services trying to help one another's members. They will avoid people having to shop from door to door to locate assistance, because the troops and their families can talk to people they already know.

#### **Military Charities, Organs, Funds.**

A secondary disbursement methodology is SOT making disbursement through existing charities and organs within and without the services which provide aid and assistance to service members and their families. To date, SOT has identified the below-listed entities through which SOT can make disbursement to ultimate beneficiaries. Entities may be added or withdrawn from time to time. Funds will be disbursed through these entities upon their agreement to further disburse them based upon SOT criteria. These entities may also refer pre-screened and qualified recipients to SOT for disbursement:

- State National Guard Assistance Funds and Relief Funds
- State National Guard Family Readiness
- HomesForOurTroops.org -- 501c3
- Special Operations Warrior Foundation -- 501c3
- Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund -- 501c3
- Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program -- VA administered
- CIA Officers Memorial Fund -- 501c3
- Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc. -- 501c3
- Dependents Educational Assistance Program -- VA administered
- National Military Family Association -- 501c3
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- Army Emergency Relief -- Official Entity of US Army
- Navy-Marine Relief Society -- Official Entity of US Navy and Marines
- Air Force Aid Society -- Official Entity of US Air Force
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance -- 501c3
- Intrepid Museum Foundation/Intrepid Family Support Fund -- 501c3



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SAMPLE	MISSISSIPPI 93235	0000 South Carolina	Alaska	ARKANSAS SAMPLE	1234	425 Oregon
932SOT	932ST	AAA 000	TEXAS SAMPL	HAWAII ALOHA ALOHA STATE	Maryland 0000	SAMPLE

- from our families to their families -

This action brings the *Support Our Troops* license plate to Alaska, sponsored by Support Our Troops®. SOT® will soon have caused the issuance of Official *Support Our Troops* plates in some 40 states, with around 20 being completed in 2006 (many unanimously by their Legislatures), and the necessities in place for issuance in about 16 more in 2007, including: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Founded by civilians as a concrete statement of thanks to the troops for their service, Support Our Troops® is a 501(c)(3) national public-benefit charity group dedicated to assisting the troops and their families in the century to come. SOT is the embodiment of the moral obligation of those of us who do not serve, to those who do. It is civilians voluntarily offering what is morally owed. The purpose of SOT is to facilitate public displays of support for America's troops through various means, and to raise money to *actually* help them by financially bolstering their families post September 11, 2001. SOT provides simple means through which America's families can protect the integrity of their troops' families, while the troops are off protecting all of our families -- whether in a peacekeeping mission, a war, or a hurricane, flood, or other disaster. SOT's business model is to create recurring revenue streams so that its promises to the families can be dependable.

To date, Support Our Troops holds the registered trademark Support Our Troops® at the federal level and in 44 states. This enables SOT to focus on the troops' families revenue from manufacture and licensing of apparel, decorative magnets, stickers, pins, jewelry, accessories, charitable fundraising, special events, and the like. SOT expects that by the end of 2008 all of its various activities will annually produce about \$15-\$20 million in non-profit revenue nationwide for the troops and their families.

The Honorable Sonny Montgomery, "the soldier's soldier", and the author of the renowned Montgomery G.I. Bill, when joining the Support Our Troops Board of Advisors, wrote "Support Our Troops has a truly bold vision of good things planned for our troops and their families over the next century, and I wholeheartedly endorse these efforts and encourage others to work with [them] as well. This is a civilian organization involved in a major effort to forever put the civilians of our great nation behind their troops. I think it is a healthy thing for civilian run organizations to be openly behind their troops, because such an effort cannot be accomplished by government agencies, veteran groups or even the military itself with the same efficiency, responsiveness, and enthusiasm as a private organization can provide. Civilians are best suited to motivating other civilians for the sake of our troops and veterans. Support Our Troops, Inc., is well-organized, includes veterans in its management, and I am well acquainted with the trustworthiness of people in it."

SOT is one of the safest national charities, with checks and balances in place that include among others: annual supervision by each of about 35 state Attorneys General and Auditors General across America; independent accounting firm dischargeable only by whole Board of Directors; annual reporting and review in each of about 35 states on Form 990; IRS-approved Conflict of Interest Policy; certain legal matters handled by Arnold & Porter and Baker & McKenzie.

**They Support Us – Let's Support Them!™**



## OVERVIEW

*from our families to their families*

### **Who Started SOT® and Why.**

*The enemy may compel a soldier to leave his family, but they will not steal his family's future.* Support Our Troops® was founded by civilians as a concrete statement of thanks to the troops for their service in the century to come. Support Our Troops® is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical, patriotic family organization aimed at protecting the integrity of the troops and their families. SOT® is a 501(c)(3) public purpose national nonprofit dedicated to permanently assisting the troops and their families after September 11, 2001. It is the embodiment of the moral obligation of those who do not serve, to those who do -- voluntarily offering what is morally owed. It is our families stepping up to watch out for the families of the troops who are off protecting all our families. We are average folks banded together to help our neighbors who are protecting all of us. We do for those who do for us.

### **General Montgomery.**

The Honorable Sonny Montgomery, "the soldier's soldier", the veteran's veteran, and the author of the renowned Montgomery G.I. Bill, was the seminal member of the Support Our Troops Board of Advisors. Upon joining, he wrote, "Support Our Troops has a truly bold vision of good things planned for our troops and their families over the next century, and I wholeheartedly endorse these efforts and encourage others to work with you and the board as well. This is a civilian organization involved in a major effort to forever put the civilians of our great nation behind their troops. I think it is a healthy thing for civilian run organizations to be openly behind their troops, because such an effort cannot be accomplished by government agencies, veteran groups or even the military itself with the same efficiency, responsiveness, and enthusiasm as a private organization can provide. Civilians are best suited to motivating other civilians for the sake of our troops and veterans. Support Our Troops, Inc., is well-organized, includes veterans in its management, and I am well acquainted with the trustworthiness of people in it."

### **Safety**

As a nation-wide charity, checks and balances in place including among others: strictly independent accounting, dischargeable only by full Board of Directors, and the principal of which is a veteran); annual reporting and review in each of 35 states on Form 990; IRS Conflict of Interest Policy; subject annual audit by each of over 35 state Attorney Generals or Auditor Generals; legal matters handled by Arnold & Porter, Baker & McKenzie, Holland & Knight.



## OVERVIEW

### **It's All About Family.**

Support Our Troops, Inc. is engaged in an immense project for our troops and their families. In short, we are going to help keep our troops' families intact while their parent(s) are engaged in protecting our families, whether it is a peacekeeping mission, a war, or hurricane, flood, or disaster. We want to help pay for education, medical, home needs, emergency transportation, and the like -- the kinds of things that dad or mom could do if they were home. It is not about "war". It is not about "military." It is about family. All of SOT's imagery is built around a parent and child, around family. Positive. Happy. Fun. We are fortunate to have some of Disney's® artist helping us on their personal time.

### **From Our Families to Their Families.**

All of our programs are designed to enable average American families to take care of America's troops' families. This is one of the highest of moral obligations -- bolstering the families of those who are protecting our families. All of our programs both enable people to publicly state their support for their troops, while producing millions annually in *patriotic private money* to bolster the troops and families who are sacrificing to protect all of us. We provide simple direct means by which our families can look out for their families.

### **The Support Our Troops License Plate Program.**

A large component of our program is causing the issuance of official DMV-issued *Support Our Troops!* license plates by the 50 states. Many Legislatures have approved the plate for us unanimously. These plates enable Americans to display their appreciation for our brave men and women and to make a significant annually recurring financial donation to assist their families through the purchase of the plate.

### **Subsidiaries.**

We have approximately 24 subsidiary charities around the US, all bearing the SUPPORT OUR TROOPS® name and all granted registration as an authorized charity with their state Attorneys General and Secretaries of State. Because we handle state license plate revenue, and in some states are even required to collect motor vehicle license plate revenue for the state and remit it to them, we are likely the most heavily monitored and therefore safest charity in America. Also, a number of states elected officials hold positions on their state's Board of Directors and act as officers of the corporation, or on the Board of Advisors. We handle as much of the administration as possible out of the central office to keep overhead down and maximize the benefits that end up with the troops' families.

### **Virtual Chapter for Each State.**



## OVERVIEW

Modern habits indicate that those interested in working with Support Our Troops® are best served through an continuous internet meeting place rather than physical meeting places. Our goal is to maximize the amount of money that is raised and passed on to the beneficiaries, not build brick and mortar. This approach removes the travel distances for members of a statewide chapter, removes the overhead cost, is faster, and allows fuller, faster participation for everyone. We want to avoid fragmentation and duplication of administration which draws off funds that could go to the beneficiaries. Therefore using the modern internet we are creating virtual chapters in which members of each state chapter primarily interact through their state website page. Setting up physical meeting places and schedules would require facilities and coordination which would needlessly consume money. Each chapter would require internal operating funds which would take money from beneficiaries. Eventually annual meetings of all chapters would be suggested, which would take more funds. The costs would exceed the beneficial services physical meeting of local chapters could perform.

### Internet Portal Site and the Association.

Between February and April 2007 the website is being completely rebuilt into an interactive community portal site using an entirely different operating system. Generally stated, the Association site will be part of existing supportthem.com site. Until the rebuild is completed the site may be best viewed by logging on through [www.SupportThem.com/frontpage](http://www.SupportThem.com/frontpage). The Association area will open from the existing "Join the Support Our Troops Association" page on the front page. On each existing state page matters specific and germane to that state and cities therein will be posted on an Association area that is added to the bottom of the state page. There will be a button they can click that allows them to add an event or additional group. We will be acquiring volunteer state page monitors and editors, just like Wikipedia.com does. These are essential to keeping out spammers. Among other things, members will be able to:

- Post a rally
- Post good news
- Post a fundraiser
- Post a special project which needs assistance.
- Post information about news coverage and whether fair or not.
- Post a good email people might want to clip and forward
- Make general patriotic postings
- Coverage of good press / bad press coverage of our troops. i.e., is your local media treating the troops fairly?
- Trouble flying your flag? (news and where to write when people are harassed for flying the flag)
- Trouble showing your patriotism? (news and where to write when people are harassed for wearing a shirt at school, etc.)



## OVERVIEW

Links to services that enable people to send emails to the troops

Create user groups like Yahoo® user groups.

Ability to specify membership categories like "VMI", "Blue Star" and the like so that people that have a common connection can then communicate with their peers for various reasons and specific projects.

Etc.

### The Seal of Assurance Program.

Confusion abounds. Information is isolated and not findable. Many people call us for information about legitimate charities. There is great uncertainty and confusion about charities for the troops. Yellow ribbons show support, but who is getting the money? People are very uncertain as to which are legitimate and which are not. Therefore a great deal of money is lost because people "almost give" due to fear of being conned. While a few unknown sites collate small limited lists, none examine a charity against a list of objective criteria and render a decision as to whether it is trustworthy and reasonably benefits the troops.

Therefore Support Our Troops® holds the role as accreditor for troop-related charities and as they are approved will authorize their use of the Seal of Assurance™. The fee is \$1 a year. No one had thought of this before. No one had done it. So SOT did.



The Support Our Troops® Seal of Assurance™ is intended to assist troop-related charities and organizations in eliminating donor uncertainty by examining and accrediting all troop-related charities and organizations in regard to whether they appropriately benefit the troops and/or their families. Another aspect of Seal of Assurance™ program is designed to help stop parasites who would profit off the backs of our troops with products that do nothing financially for the troops. This program employs a mark (like the UL® seal or the Good Housekeeping seal) on goods which assures people that they are legitimately licensed and an appropriate amount of the royalties are going to the troops and their families.

### Charity Index

Most states are printing our web address on the *Support Our Troops!* license plates. We are requiring it on licensed products. Participants in the Seal of Assurance™ are required to link to an automatic participant verifier page on our website. Therefore the SOT website will have a great deal of traffic and will be perceived as "official." We are therefore able to provide another badly needed and highly useful service: a consolidated living list of all of the charities and organizations anywhere that do anything that benefits the active duty troops and/or their families. There will also be a



## OVERVIEW

warning list as to identified bad ones, phishing sites, and the like. This data base is being structured so that charities in each state will be listed on that state's Association area of the site. When people log on, they can see what the group is doing, where they are located, how to contact them what they need or offer. People can link up and help each other. Churches or groups can post things they need for packages. People who want to help assemble packages or otherwise do something can find places to do so. Users will be able to search or sort the database to find the exact thing charity in which they are interested. People will be able to log on with their user name and password (free entry level) and add a charity, organization, or event which benefits the troops or their families. To the left of each will be a cell into which we will place the Seal of Assurance™ if they participate in that program.

### Business Model.

The business model of Support Our Troops® is to create recurring revenue streams. We have launched a nationwide program of *Support Our Troops!* license plates to enable people to show their support for and make a recurring contribution to bolster the families of those protect all of us. The name has been branded which allows for creation of many recurring revenue streams from products and services using it. The model is to *not* create a hat-in-hand charity. The goal is to create a company with an image that is vigorous and cool for kids and products that are sought after and in which people care to be routinely seen whether or not we are at conflict. The goal is to build a charity that endures for a hundred years, which has a marketable national identity, and has multiple revenue sources for stability. We are building for permanency and long term health. When we look a parent in the eye and tell them their kid is going to college, both they and we will know our word is good.

### Local Organization

Our first effort in each state is to cause the plates to be issued. While doing so we begin putting local organization infrastructure in place so that local people have a means by which to get involved and run this at the local level. In preparation for, or during that process, we make good local connections and encounter people and groups who earnestly want to help the troops and are glad to find Support Our Troops® as a trustworthy means through which they can do so. Once the plate is issued we start radio and TV PSAs and other advertising. This usually attracts more people who have been looking for something like this. So along the way we set up two participation vehicles.

Board of Advisors. Support Our Troops, Inc. establishes a Board of Advisors for the state. This approach enables notable and connected persons to participate with their peers in an orderly manner, present themselves to the public with a recognized capability when such is necessary, yet remain free of the



## OVERVIEW

responsibility and liability of being a corporate director. Some local boards now have legislators, lobbyists, and corporate executives on them. There is not a fixed number of positions for the Board of Advisors. The trick will be for each state's locals to eventually blend both political figures, top people from the top local businesses, local major sports figures, and the like together onto the Board. Since the Board of Advisors is not a corporate directorship with all of the bother about liability and control, as many top people as wish can freely participate. The Board could have 10 members, it could have 60. It will evolve to where they decide on and throw their weight behind a local fundraising event, such as a golf tournament, fishing tournament, sporting clay tournament, or the like. And then the general public members of the Support Our Troops Association pitch in to handle the organization and execution work.

Association. To involve the general public, SOT formed the Americans Support Our Troops Association, Inc. The All-American entry level is free. People are members of their state chapter of the Association. This will function as a virtual community through the SOT open architecture website, with local people able to post bulletins and notices about local events, resources, and the like on their state page. This website feature should be fully active by 12-31-06. It is intended to be a single-source reference point and clearinghouse for local information for local active duty troops, local vet groups, local charities, and information efforts to help the troops such as putting packages together to send them and the like. There is a free entry level membership, and several higher levels, as well as the ability for a club (such as a VSO, a Post, Rotary, etc) to have an affiliate membership in the Association as a club to show support, and the ability for a business to have a corporate membership.

Having caused the issuance of the same plate in so many states makes Support Our Troops® distinct. The local Boards can use that to interconnect SOT with as many local companies, sponsors, and events as they can think of to raise money for the troops and their families.

### Veterans Groups (VSOs)

We are using the brand name Support Our Troops® as an open source conduit to facilitate as much as we can for all other groups. Key is that we are working very closely and hard to draw attention to and build the membership of VSOs, (Veterans Service Organizations). One of the key things Support Our Troops® wants to do is help promote each state's VSOs to the public and the returning troops, draw their attention to the VSOs, and help make the public and recently returned servicemen and servicewomen aware of what they can find with each organization. Traffic through our website is now growing rapidly. We are using that to promote and call attention to



## OVERVIEW

VSOs, tell visitors briefly what each VSO can offer them, and send them along to the local VSOs through links to their sites or contact information. This is part of our mission and there is of course no charge for such a thing. We figure the price has already been paid. The object is to use the internet to its full potential by using our website to drive traffic, and hopefully members, to each state's VSOs.

Support Our Troops® is also knitting itself in with all of the VSOs in order to be of benefit to them. We hold joint fundraising events with different posts. We refer returning soldiers to them to enable them to talk to someone who has been there. We organize special events, such as Patriot Rides, to call attention to both troops and veterans. While Support Our Troops is lead by people who have not served, it is filled at the national and state levels with veterans in all management and operational levels. SOT can be a real asset and good partner and earnestly seeks to develop very close productive ties with the VSOs in each state for mutual enjoyment and benefit.

### The Support Our Troops Association

SOT has founded the Americans Support Our Troops Association in order to provide a healthy direct connection between American civilians and their troops. The entry level membership is free and there are several levels of paying memberships. Between February and April 2007 the website is being completely rebuilt into an interactive community portal site in which Members will be able to log on with their user name and password, and post notices on their state page about events that are happening for the troops, fundraisers, local charities, groups or churches that are putting together packages for the troops and what is needed and where to contact people locally. They will be able to assemble into subgroups and set up areas in which to interact to work on special projects. It will be an immensely useful single source portal for local interaction. On our website each state will have a page on which people can list rallies, events, and fundraisers, or provide information about organizations that troop's families can look to for assistance. Each state's web page will also have lists of all of the VSOs in the state, and all state agencies which help the troops and veterans.

The generally-stated purposes of ASOTA are to facilitate public displays of support for America's troops and to raise money to bolster the troops and the families of troops sacrificing to protect America after September 11, 2001, and ASOTA is established to facilitate that end. The objectives of ASOTA are to enable Americans to do the following for their troops and their families and survivors:

- Bolster them.
- Distribute useful news and information among themselves.
- Organize and facilitate approved supportive rallies and events.
- Spread the word about the Support Our Troops Seal of Assurance™ program.
- Spread the word about rallies.



## OVERVIEW

- Organize and facilitate approved fundraisers for Support Our Troops, Inc. (SOT).
- Pursue approved positive media support and positive coverage for SOT, the troops, and their families.
- Facilitate public displays of patriotism.
- Encourage patriotism in others by example.
- Facilitate people's gathering and sharing their support and enthusiasm.
- Facilitate charitable fundraising through a Support Our Troops affinity credit card program.
- Exchange information about news coverage.
- Exchange supportive email messages.
- Coordinate supportive activities for the troop's families.

### National Board of Advisors

In addition to the Board of Advisors in each state, SOT has a national Board of Advisors for national level figures. Every successful great project has Mentors who provide invaluable guidance, have charted similar courses before, know how to avoid the shoals, where lies the fairest wind, and which ships are friendly. These mentors are the people who are able to make good things happen quickly. From Homers' Odyssey in antiquity to the present, these keystone individuals are those who provide wise advice, build bridges, locate funding, make connections and open doors to make great things happen for good causes. The Support Our Troops National Board of Advisors comprises just such magnanimous individuals. They offer their wisdom to assist the greater good, and are shepherding this project to success for the benefit of America's troops and their families. The directors of Support Our Troops are fortunate enough to benefit from the wisdom, counsel and assistance of these key advisors. The Board is being grown with high profile people from various industry categories, including Executive Members, Business Members, Sports Members, Military Members, Entertainment Industry Members, and so forth. The Board's first member was Sonny Montgomery, author of the G.I. Bill. In fact, it is actually named The Montgomery G.I. Bill. We do not anticipate that the Board of Advisors is going to tie itself up with frequent meetings and formalities. The principal purpose of the Advisors is to provide strategic business planning advice and occasionally help open a door or make a connection when Support Our Troops works to put together a rock concert, golf tournament, and other event to benefit the troops and their families. Referrals of such people for this Board will be greatly appreciated.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: CSHB 184(MLV)  
(H) Publish Date: 4/4/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Administration  
Title: "An Act relating to a commemorative troops license plate..." RDU: Division of Motor Vehicles  
Sponsor: Rep. Roses Component: Motor Vehicles  
Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component No.: 2348

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

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<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>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<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 (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

This bill will allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to offer a special "Support Our Troops" license plate. This optional plate would require a fee of \$40.00 at inception and also at each registration renewal, in addition to the registration fee required. The additional fee will be accounted for separately and may be appropriated by the legislature to Support Our Troops, Inc.

As this bill does not affect the vehicle registration we do not anticipate any change in revenue. Also, DMV does not anticipate any measurable expenses as a result of this bill. However the revenue derived from the \$40.00 fee is indeterminate.

Prepared by: Duane Bannock, Director  
Division: Motor Vehicles  
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: 269 5559  
Date/Time: 3/19/07 10:00am  
Date: 3/20/07 9:00am

*replaced*

AMENDMENT

*2*

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 184(MLV)

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

1 Page 1, line 2, following "veterans;":

2 Insert "relating to registration of vehicles for disabled persons;"

3

4 Page 2, following line 21:

5 Insert a new bill section to read:

6 **\*\* Sec. 3. ^ S 28.10.411(f) is amended to read:**

7 (f) A resident 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the year the vehicle is  
8 registered ~~by~~ a resident with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk  
9 and who provides proof of that disability as provided in AS 28.10.181(d) is  
10 entitled to an exemption from the registration fee required under this section for one  
11 vehicle subject to registration under AS 28.10.421(b)(1), (2), (5), or (6). An exemption  
12 may not be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form  
13 prescribed by the department."

14

15 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives



Official Business

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

### Sectional Analysis for CS HB 184(MLV) BY: Representative Bob Roses

**TITLE:** "An Act relating to a commemorative troops license plate and to license plates available to disabled veterans; and providing for an effective date."

**Section 1.** Amends current statute language to allow for qualified disabled veterans to elect to receive a plate under (p) or (q) of this section that does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special parking privileges.

**Section 2.** Adds a new section (x) to AS 28.10.181 designating that special request plates commemorating and supporting troops. It allows that the commissioner (of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development shall determine the design and color of the plates. This section allows the department to disapprove the issuance of plates and for the substitution of alternative language.

**Section 3.** Adds a new section (17) to AS 28.10.421(d) outlining the fee amounts and the regularity of the collection. It further states that the funds may be appropriated by the legislature to Support Our Troops, Inc. for the benefit of the troops and their families in accordance with its articles of incorporation and bylaws.

**Section 4.** This section states the bill will take effect on July 1, 2007.