

HB

210

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Vice Chair:
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member:
Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Affairs Committee
Economic Development, Trade, &
Tourism Committee



Session:
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REPRESENTATIVE NANCY DAHLSTROM

ELMENDORF AFB • FORT RICHARDSON • BIRCHWOOD • FIRE LAKE • GOVERNMENT HILL • MULDOON
Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 210 – Adjutant General Qualifications

House Bill 210, "An act relating to the appointment and qualifications of the adjutant general," is before us to bring attention to the importance of guard duty in relation to its leadership.

In recent years, the Alaska National Guard has undergone major changes. It has seen organizational restructure, increased deployment responsibility and additional missions at home. With the amplified demand for the Alaska National Guard, it is imperative for our state's adjutant general be adequately qualified.

House Bill 210's intent is to positively impact troop morale by appointing leaders who have shared similar experiences and walked in their shoes. Knowing their leader has been down a similar path will create a deeper respect within the troops.

The National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. is considering an increase in rank for the bureau chief, from three-star to four-star. Increasing the rank from major general to lieutenant general will give the Alaska National Guard a jump start on this initiative and make our adjutant general more qualified and better received when working with issues back in Washington, D.C. An increase in rank will not impact the state budget and will not increase the adjutant general's salary as a state employee.

It is important to note this legislation does not limit the power of the Governor to appoint a viable candidate as Adjutant General/Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This legislation is supported by the Administration and I ask for the favorable consideration of the State Affairs Committee.

John Bruce Gazaway
4420 Edinburgh Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

March 28, 2008


To the House of Representatives:

House Bill 210 is an important measure and we urge your support to pass this bill.

As a member of the Alaska National Guard for 25 years, I believe that troop morale and well being is higher when an Adjutant General comes from the ranks of the Alaska National Guard. When a person has at least five years experience with an organization one gains a knowledge and understanding of where we have come from and where we need to go.

It has been difficult in the past when an Adjutant General has had no Alaska National Guard experience. Without a clear understanding of the state and the responsibilities of the Alaska National Guard, Adjutant Generals can drive enlisted Soldiers and Airmen to leave the organization.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gazaway
Technical Sergeant
Alaska Air National Guard

PROPOSAL FOR A STATE OF ALASKA RESOLUTION AMENDMENT

RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN ALASKA STATUTE AS.26.05.160. FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

BACKGROUND: Currently in the State of Alaska, the Governor is essentially free to appoint nearly anyone he/she chooses to be The Adjutant General for Alaska, the highest military position of the Alaska National Guard. At the same time, the requirements for appointment of the two (Army and Air Guard) Assistant Adjutant Generals, require that they have served at least five (5) years in the Alaska National Guard, be able to be Federally recognized as General Officers, and other specific statutory and regulatory requirements.

This creates both a real and perceived disparity between two militarily qualified General Officers and their potential immediate military leader that is unacceptable. Also, someone who has no knowledge of the Alaska National Guard tends to spend most of their time just trying to learn about our capabilities and challenges, the Alaska military and political environments and the State military needs. This is contrary to someone who has come from within the organization. Also, the military training, experience, schooling requirements to include the War College are intense and cumulative to achieve the level of General Officer in today's National Guard. Someone who has not served in the higher military ranks also should not be considered to be placed in a military command position at the level of Adjutant General.

PROPOSED ACTION;

Due to our overwhelming support for HB 210, we recommend immediate passage, support and swift approval throughout the legislative process on this action.



Mike Bridges
Past President, Legislative Affairs Chair, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association
(907) 952-3878
britun@vci.net

From a resolution at the Annual General Business meeting.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB210-DMVA-COMM-3 234
 Bill Version: HB210 (H) MLV
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Dept. Affected: Military & Veterans Affairs

Title: Qualifications of the Adjutant General

RDU: Military and Veterans Affairs

Component: Commissioners Office

Sponsor: Representative Dahlstrom

Requester: Military & Veterans Affairs

Component No: 414

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
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	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
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

Prepared by: Mr. John Cramer, Acting Deputy Commissioner

Phone: (907) 465-4602

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date/Time: 3/23/07 9:45 AM

Approved by: General Craig Campbell, Commissioner

Date: 3/23/2007

Agency: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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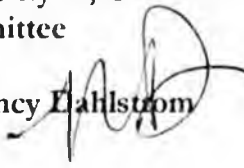
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Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Nancy Dahlstrom 

DATE: March 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Hearing Request

I respectfully request a hearing on House Bill 210, "An act relating to the appointment and qualifications of the adjutant general," at the committee's earliest convenience.

Thank you.