

HB

44

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: February 29, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3-18-08

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 44

HOUSE BILL NO. 44

VETERAN INFO ON PFD APPLICATIONS

"An Act relating to information from veterans on the permanent fund dividend application form."

Recommends it be replaced with HCS or CS for HB 44 (STA)
 For Senate Bills with new title: Technical Title New Title: HCR _____ | Same Title | New Title

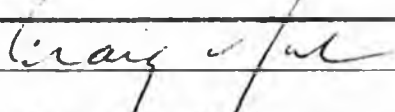
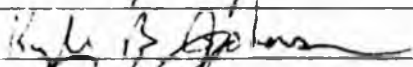
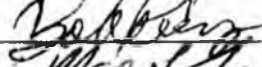
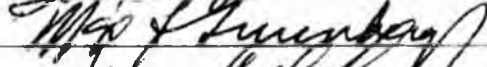
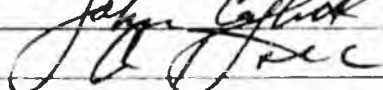
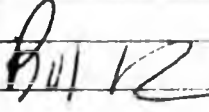
- attach amendments
- add new referral to _____ Committee
- Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of
Abbrev
for
Depts.:

- ADM
- CED
- COR
- CRT
- EED
- DEC
- DFG
- GOV
- HSS
- LWF
- LAW
- LEG
- MVA
- DNR
- DPS
- REV
- DOT
- UA

| <u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|--------|------|
| *Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office | | | | |
| List by Dept(s): | *FN# | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero |
| Rev | | ✓ | | |
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| <u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u> | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|------|
| List by Dept(s): | FN# | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero |
| Rev | 2 | ✓ | | |
| MVA | 1 | | | ✓ |
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| <u>Signing with recommendations</u> | Printed Last Name | DP | DNP | NR | AM |
|--|-------------------|----|-----|----|----|
|  | Johnson | X | | | |
|  | JOHANSEN | X | | | |
|  | Rose | X | | | |
|  | Gruenberg | | | | ✓ |
|  | Dell | | | ✓ | |
| Chair:  | LYNN | X | | | |
| Chair: | | | | | |

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: CSHB44(MLV)
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): CSHB44(MLV)-DOR-PFD-3-17-08 Dept. Affected: Revenue
Title: VETERAN INFO ON PFD APPLICATIONS RDU: Tax and Treasury
Sponsor: Guttenburg, Dahlstrom, Kerley Component: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
Requester: House State Affairs Component Number: 981

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | FY 2009 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 32.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 32.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | | |
| 1050 PFD Fund | 32.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 |
| TOTAL | 32.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.7 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 44 will require changes to PFD's paper and online applications, and their associated databases. Programming & Application rewrite costs are one time.

Data entry for paper applications will result in an increase over our current volume and will be ongoing. Data entry is performed by Administrative Clerk I/II

Qualifying Veterans Associations & managing the Memorandum of Agreements with them will require ongoing effort by an Administrative Clerk III and results an increase over current volume.

Prepared by: Debbie Richter, Division Director Phone: 465-4785
Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Date/Time: 03/17/08 5:15PM
Approved by: Jerry Burnett Date: 3/17/2008
Department I of Revenue

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Vice-Chairman
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism
Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Corrections
Labor and Workforce Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs
Public Safety



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 31 Anchorage

E-Mail: Representative Bob Lynn@legis.state.ak.us
"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" RepBobLynnBlog.com

Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931
Fax: (907) 465-4316
Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:
716 W 4th Ave., #650
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205
Fax: (907) 269-0207

FAX

To: Legal Services

Fax #: 2029

From: Nancy Manly x2794
Alaska State Capitol, room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

of Pages (including cover): 1

Phone: 907-465-4931
Fax: 907-465-4316

Re: HB 44 Veteran Info on PFD Applications

3-18-08

HB 44 Version C passed out of the House State Affairs Committee this morning with one passed amendment. Please draft a final STA CS. Thank you.

Version 25-LS0229\C

Conceptual Amendment #1 (Roses)
Line 10 after the word "request" insert of the department

Amendment #2 (Gruenberg)
Failed

*
* TRANSACTION REPORT *
* MAR-17-2008 09:06 PM *
* FOR: REP LYNN 4654316 *

* SEND *

* DATE START RECEIVER PAGES TIME NOTE *

* MAR-17 09:05 PM 2029 1 27" OK *

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sponsor



Statement

SESSION
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

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1292 Sadler Way, Suite 304
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office (907) 456-8172
Fax (907) 456-2490

Representative David Guttenberg

House Bill 44 – Veteran Info on PFD Application

HB 44 adds the question to the Permanent Fund Dividend application: Are you an American military veteran? By offering veterans the option to identify themselves as veterans on the PFD application, as well as their military branch and dates of service, we will be better able to find and engage our veterans and their families in helping them secure their legal rights to programs and benefits they have earned under federal and state laws.

With 74,500 veterans (2005 US Census) and about 35,000 active duty, National Guard, and Reserves across our state, Alaska has the highest veteran's population per capita in the nation. HB 44 seeks to enable the State of Alaska and Alaskan-based Veteran Service Organizations to better inform these veterans of changes in programs or policies that affect them and their families.

It is in the best interest of Alaska to ensure that all resident veterans receive the federal benefits they have earned from the Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense, and other agencies. The retirement checks and/or benefits of Alaska veterans represent over a billion dollars to our economy every year, yet only one in five veterans receive benefits. If we were to double the number of veterans receiving benefits, we could create a significant economic impact in communities throughout the state.

As a result of federal and state privacy laws, it has become almost impossible to find and connect with our veterans. It is clearly in the State's best interest to ensure all veterans are informed of their rights to VA healthcare, burial rights, disability compensation, survivor benefits, housing loans, spousal assistance, college assistance, and vocational assistance. HB 44 attempts to reach these veterans who, for whatever reason, are not currently receiving the benefits they have earned or may be unaware of changes in the status of these programs.

Only the state and congressionally chartered and state approved Veteran Service Organizations will have access to this register for the purposes of contacting and informing our resident veterans of their legal rights and benefits they have earned.

I urge you to support this legislation.

LEGAL SERVICES

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

(907) 465-3800 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-0229
Mail Stop 3101

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

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Information from veterans on PFD forms; sectional summary of
HB 44 (Work Order No. 25-LS0229\A)

TO: Representative David Guttenberg
Attn: Jeff Stepp

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

Section 1. The permanent fund dividend application form is required to include a place to voluntarily indicate that the applicant is a veteran, branch of service, and dates of service. The Department of Revenue is required to release the information only to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and, if requested, to veterans service organizations.

TBC.mcd
08-009.mcd

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB 44 (H) MLV
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB44-DMVA-NGMHQ-2-22-08 Dept. Affected: DMVA
Title An Act relating to information from veterans on the permanent RDU Military and Veterans Affairs
fund dividend application form Component NGM: IQ
Sponsor Rep. Guttenberg, Dahlstrom, Kertula, Lynn, Fairclough, Kawasaki
Requester House Special Comm on MVA, State Affairs Component Number 2135

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2009 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Contractual | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Equipment | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grants & Claims | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

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| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
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|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1004 GF | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other Interagency Receipts | 0.0 | 0.0 | 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 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No expected fiscal impact to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Prepared by: McHugh Pierre, Legislative Liaison/Director of Communications Phone 465-4402
Division: National Guard Military Headquarters/Commissioner's Office Date/Time 2/22/08 @ 2:30 pm
Approved by: Commissioner Craig Campbell Date 2/22/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 44
 () Publish Date: _____

HB Identifier (file name): HB44-DOR-PFD-02-25-08 Dept. Affected: Revenue
 Title: Information from veterans on the permanent fund dividend application form. RDU: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Sponsor: Guttenberg, Dahlstrom, Kertulla, etc. Component: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Requester: Military and Veterans Affairs Component Number: 981

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

| | Appropriation Required | | Information | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | FY 2009 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 24.2 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 |
| Travel | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Contractual | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Supplies | 5.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Equipment | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 4.9 | 0.0 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 34.1 | 0.0 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 |

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|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | 34.1 | 0.0 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| 1050 PFD Fund | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 34.1 | 0.0 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The division's budget does not contain funding for this addition to the PFD application.

HB 44 will require changes to PFD's paper and online applications, and their associated databases. Physical space on the paper application is tight; the question of whether the individual has ever been in the military, the instruction that answering is voluntary, and the associated questions will not fit on the same application page; these additional questions may not fit on the (two-paged) application document. Expenses projected by the agency are based on assumption that the additional language will fit on the (two-paged) application document.

Prepared by: Amy Skow, Division Manager
 Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Division
 Approved by: Jerry Burnett
Department of Revenue

Phone 907 465-4784
 Date/Time 2/25/08 2:00 PM
 Date 2/25/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB44

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Programming and publication changes would be a one-time cost. Clerical services, supplies and miscellaneous (postage) expenditures would recur annually.

It is assumed that follow up letters and processing would occur with some incomplete answers. PFD's 2007 dividend data file indicates there were 13,000+ active duty members of the US Armed Forces in 2006. In order to estimate clerical time and expense, we have estimated that two times that number of individuals are veterans, and many active duty members will respond to the question, resulting in a rough pool of 39 000 potential information providers.

PFDD Division suggests a change in the bill: PFDD will provide the information to the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs automatically, at the time the on-time application file is complete. Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs will determine which veterans service organizations in the state shall receive the information, and DMVA will distribute the information to those organizations. IF PFDD is required to determine which veterans service organizations in the state should qualify, it will incur contractual costs for Department of Law advice, at the rate of approx. \$150/hour. We believe that the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs would best be able to make a clean distinction on which organizations qualify as veterans service organizations.

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

February 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Information from veterans on the permanent fund dividend application forms (CSHB 44(MLV); Work Order No. 25-LS0229\C)

TO: Representative David Guttenberg
Attn: Jeff Stepp

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

You ask what changes are proposed to the original HB 44 under CSHB 44(MLV). The special committee added after "branch of service" a reference to the Alaska Territorial Guard as being included within that term. In the context of providing the information regarding a veteran, the special committee also replaced the words "not mandatory" with "is voluntary."

TBC:ljw
08-123.ljw

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

February 28, 2008

Dear Chairman Lynn,

Our combat wounded veterans' organization lends its full support to HB44. The question of "Are you an American Veteran?" on the PFD application is critical to enable all Alaska veteran organizations to be able to reach out to the many Alaska veterans who are in remote locations. Those Alaska veterans who do not have ready access to the assistance centers in major cities still need and have justly earned the benefits they have long been denied. By passing HB44 we in the major population centers will have a vehicle that will enable us to provide the support that those military members in remote areas have earned.

The MOPH (Military Order of the Purple Heart) is proud to be in full support of HB44. We ask that you assist in the cause of providing us a means to reach out to those veterans who are denied the easy access to the benefits they have justly earned as result of their honored military service.

Ron Siebels

MOPH, Sr-Vice, Dept of Alaska
MOPH, Commander, Chapter 593. Anchorage

ALASKA VETERANS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

(AK VET PAC) 2/20/08

Vietnam Veterans of America/Alaska Veterans of Modern Warfare/Alaska Military Order of the Purple Heart/Anch Alaska Veterans Foundation, Inc. Alaska Veterans Business Alliance

The purpose/function of this newsletter is to let you know who in Juneau and Washington, DC are supporting veterans by their actions and not just more talk. It will also help you keep up with legislation or executive actions of interest to veterans in Alaska and assist you in participating in them.

HB44 – FINDING ALASKA'S VETERANS

Originally introduced as HB44 by Rep Guttenberg, Dahlstrom, Kerttula, and Lynn in January 2007, it remains in the House Special Committee on Military and veterans' Affairs pending a hearing. We have been working with a number of interested parties on any concerns and have address all informed questions on ensuring the lists protection with some new language. We have asked that this critical legislation be rewritten to address the lists confidentiality concerns.

The PFD application is the only instrument that can provide this *voluntary* information annually and does no harm to the PFD process while providing significant help to likely thousands of Alaskan veterans and their families. We have not found any other means to accomplish this goal, and the return on this small effort will be in the tens of millions of dollars a year to our veterans and their families. The bill number will be announced with its reintroduction.

Alaska has just less than 80,000 veterans (2000 US Census 74,500), the highest per capita in the nation. But given new federal and state privacy laws, we are no longer able to find our veterans using driver's licenses and agency lists. We found a way to do this voluntarily with the cooperation of the Permanent Fund Board.

Why is it important to find our veterans and their families? Hundreds of millions of dollars in direct payments and services to our veterans and their families await their request. Currently, the Veterans Administration in Alaska serves less than 20% of our veterans, yet this and other programs, generate over a billion dollars in revenue to Alaska annually. By providing our veterans and their families the annual booklet of VA services and a listing of Alaska services, we can directly improve the lives of thousands of Alaskan veterans and their families. *These are rights and services earned by service and sacrifice, not welfare.*

If you consider that every veteran has at least two family members in Alaska, this single group represents at least one third of our state's population.

Very simply, the PFD Application asks, "Are you an American veteran?" This is a voluntary question that in no way affects the dividend itself. Annually collected from all Alaskans, this information would be provided via a simple computer program to the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs so that they can mail out state/federal veteran benefits booklets and information. Any Alaskan veteran who wishes to avail themselves of these services would do so through the regular processes of the Veterans Administration or other federal or state agency showing they meet the requirements of that program.

This weekly update is provided as a free service to all veterans and their families who may be concerned with state and federal legislation that may impact their lives. If you discover any errors or omissions, please contact Ric Davidge and inform him of such. Email: ricdavidge.ak@gci.net office (907) 222-6927 fax (907) 222-6933

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

FEBRUARY 8, 2008



REPORT NUMBER 08.154

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS IN ALASKA

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE DAVID GUTTENBERG

BY PATRICIA YOUNG, MANAGER

You asked for information on the current military population and the number of veterans in Alaska. Specifically, you wished to know the number of active duty military personnel and the numbers of National Guard and Reserve forces currently in the state. You also wished to know the number of veterans in Alaska and how Alaska compares to other states in regard to the percent of the population who are veterans.

The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provided the following data on active, Guard, and Reserve forces in the state as of December 31, 2007.

| Active Military Population in Alaska | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| (December 31, 2007) | | |
| Active Forces | Army | 11,402 |
| | Navy | 27 |
| | Air Force | 8,000 |
| | Marines | 22 |
| | Coast Guard | 2,116 |
| Total Active Forces | | 21,567 |
| National Guard and Reserves | Army National Guard | 1,972 |
| | Air National Guard | 1,920 |
| | Army Reserves | 399 |
| | Air Force Reserves | 164 |
| | Navy Reserves | 78 |
| | Marine Reserves | 46 |
| Total Guard and Reserves | | 4,579 |
| Canadian Forces | | 30 |
| Total Military Population in Alaska | | 26,176 |

SOURCE: Alaska Command (US Department of Defense and Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs).

The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)—using data from the VA, from the Department of Defense (DoD), and from the Bureau of the Census—provides official estimates and projections of the veteran population using a specifically designed model (VetPop2007) that is updated periodically for improved methodology, more recent data, and changing needs. Each year, the model generates the estimated number of veterans by certain selected characteristics at the state and national levels. According to the VA model, as of September 30, 2007, the number of veterans in Alaska was 74,557.

In order to arrive at an estimate of the percent of the Alaska population represented by veterans, and to compare that with the percentage in other states, we combined the VA model estimates of state veteran populations with Census Bureau estimates of state populations as of July 1, 2007. Using those figures, we calculate that veterans currently make up approximately 11 percent of the total Alaska population. Veterans make up more than ten percent of the overall population in only six states, with similar percentages in Maine, Alaska, and Montana, followed closely by percentages in Wyoming, Virginia, and New Hampshire.

Looking at the portion of the population that is 18 years or over, however, may provide a more realistic picture of how veterans fit into state demographics. Because the most current available estimates of population by age group are for July 1, 2006, we paired those data with VA model estimates for September 30, 2006. Using these data, we calculate that in 2006, veterans made up 15 percent of the adult population of Alaska, the highest percentage in the nation.¹

We hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

¹ Montana and Wyoming followed Alaska, with 14.4 percent and 14.2 percent, respectively.



Military Order of the *Purple Heart*

Department of Alaska
"Combat Wounded Veterans"

Date: February 28, 2008



Our combat wounded veteran's organization lends its full support to HB44. The question of "Are you an American Veteran" on the PFD application is critical to enable all Alaska veteran organizations to be able to reach out to the many Alaska veterans who are in remote locations. Those Alaska veterans who do not have ready access to the assistance centers in major cities still need and have justly earned the benefits they have long been denied. By passing HB44 we in the major population centers will have a vehicle that will enable us to provide the support that those military members in remote areas have earned.

The MOPH (Military Order of the Purple Heart) is proud to be in full support of HB44. We ask that you assist in the cause of providing us a means to reach out to those veterans who are denied the easy access to the benefits they have justly earned as result of their honored military service.

Ron Siebels

Ron Siebels

MOPH, Sr-Vice, Dept of Alaska

MOPH, Commander, Chapter 593, Anchorage



Chapter 904 - Anchorage, Alaska "An Agenda of Service"

February 26, 2008

Chairman Lynn
House State Affairs Committee
Juneau, AK

Mr. Chairman:

This is to inform you of our strong support for the passage of HB44.

In these trying times our veterans, old and new, need all of the support that our state and country can possibly give them. Let us not forget all of the sacrifices our veterans have made for us. Lots of veterans get out of the service not knowing and not caring about benefits that are rightfully theirs. They just want to be left alone. Each and every day, in our work with veterans of all wars, we are finding more and more down and out and needy veterans that don't have a clue that they have any kind of help coming from the VA. A lot of these veterans have suffered through forty years without any sort of VA help to which they are entitled.

THIS HAS TO BE CORRECTED NOW, and Alaska has a unique opportunity to do this through the PFD application question: "Are you an American Veteran?"

HB44 will go a long way in helping find Alaska's vets and informing them of their benefits.

Hats off to every legislator supporting this bill. You have our vote.

Best wishes,

Al Baffone
Vice President, VVA Chapter 904 (Anchorage)

ALASKA SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS
ALLIANCE



Rep. David Guttenberg
State Capitol Bldg. Room 418
Juneau, AK. 99801

Rep. Guttenberg,

As the Secretary of the Alaska Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Alliance and a member of the Veterans of Modern Warfare I am in contact with Veterans throughout our State of Alaska. You would not believe how many Veterans out there that don't know what benefits or information that they need to know. With HB44 this would bring the Veteran population into one database to get required information to all Veterans whether it is updates or new legislation from the Veterans Affairs or links to websites for all us Veterans. I ask you and the rest of your colleagues to pass this bill because this is a necessity to keep all veterans informed.

Thank you,

Tim Wheeler, Secretary
Alaska Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Alliance
And
Veterans of Modern Warfare



In Service to America®

Chapter 891 - Wasilla, Alaska

Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another

March 1, 2008

Greeting: Chairman Lynn and Members of the Committee
House State Affairs Committee

As a Veteran of over 40 years active Military Service, I have seen many missed opportunities of Veterans who came to Alaska to hide from people when they were young. Now these Veterans who served this Country so well are getting older. These Veterans need to get into the Veterans Administrations health care system and receive the care they have earned. Please take this small action to pass on HB 44.

In the Mat-Su Valley we are supporting the Veterans Aviation Outreach program where they go into the bush and find Veterans. Most of these Veterans are in need of health care.

I am writing in support of HB 44. The bill will help the department of Veterans Affairs to locate Veterans and get information to them about their earned Veterans Benefits.

Thank you for supporting this Bill to Aid Veterans

William (Bill) Farling
President Vietnam Veterans Chapter 891

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David Guttenberg

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District 8

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs

From: Representative David Guttenberg

Date: February 28, 2008

Re: Hearing Request for HB 44 – Veteran Info on PFD Applications

I respectfully request that you schedule HB 44, Veteran Information on PFD Applications, for House State Affairs Committee consideration at your earliest convenience.

Enclosed are:

1. All versions of HB 44
2. Current Sponsor Statement
3. Current Sectional Analysis
4. Current Fiscal Notes
5. Explanation of Changes
6. Communications of support
7. Additional Background Material

I look forward to discussing the merits of this bill in the House State Affairs Committee. My staff, Jeff Stepp, is assigned to this legislation if there are any questions, 465-4708.