

**HB**

**210**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 210</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
210</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV27</COMM></TARGET>

**HOUSE BILL NO. 210**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE LYNN**

**Introduced: 3/28/11**  
**Referred:**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the drinking age for a person who is an active member of the armed**  
2 **forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska National Guard; and**  
3 **relating to the age to possess tobacco for a person who is an active member of the armed**  
4 **forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska National Guard."**

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

6 \* **Section 1.** AS 04.16.049 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (g) A person does not violate this section if the person enters or remains on  
8 premises licensed under this title, and the person is an active member of the armed  
9 forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska National Guard, and, at  
10 the time the person is on a licensed premises, the person possesses a valid armed  
11 forces identification card issued by the United States Department of Defense or an  
12 Alaska National Guard identification card.

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 04.16.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (m) A person does not violate this section if the person consumes, possesses,

1 or is in control of an alcoholic beverage, and the person is an active member of the  
2 armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska National Guard,  
3 and, at the time the person consumes, possesses, or is in control of an alcoholic  
4 beverage, the person possesses a valid armed forces identification card issued by the  
5 United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard identification card.

6 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 04.16.052 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (b) A licensee or an agent or employee of the licensee does not violate this  
8 section if the person is an active member of the armed forces of the United States or an  
9 active member of the Alaska National Guard, and, at the time of an act described in  
10 (a)(1) - (5) of this section, the person possesses a valid armed forces identification card  
11 issued by the United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard  
12 identification card.

13 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 04.16.055 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (b) A person does not violate this section if the person is an active member of  
15 the armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska National  
16 Guard, and at the time the person rented a room in a hotel, motel, resort, or similar  
17 business, the person possessed a valid armed forces identification card issued by the  
18 United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard identification card.

19 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 04.16.057 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 (c) A person who is physically in possession and exercising dominion and  
21 control over a dwelling does not violate this section if the other person is an active  
22 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska  
23 National Guard, and, at the time the other person possesses an alcoholic beverage in  
24 the dwelling, the other person also possesses a valid armed forces identification card  
25 issued by the United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard  
26 identification card.

27 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 11.76.100 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (g) A person does not violate this section if the other person is an active  
29 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska  
30 National Guard, and the other person possesses a valid armed forces identification  
31 card issued by the United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard

1 identification card.

2 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 11.76.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (c) A person does not violate this section if the other person is an active  
4 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska  
5 National Guard, and the other person possesses a valid armed forces identification  
6 card issued by the United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard  
7 identification card.

8 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 11.76.106 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (d) A person does not violate this section if the other person is an active  
10 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active member of the Alaska  
11 National Guard, and the other person possesses a valid armed forces identification  
12 card issued by the United States Department of Defense or an Alaska National Guard  
13 identification card.

14 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 43.50.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (j) A person who is licensed under this chapter does not violate this section if  
16 the person establishes, before shipping cigarettes, that the person to whom the  
17 cigarettes are shipped is an active member of the armed forces of the United States or  
18 an active member of the Alaska National Guard, and the other person provides a valid  
19 armed forces identification card issued by the United States Department of Defense or  
20 an Alaska National Guard identification card.

# Alaska State Legislature

**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Energy Special Committee  
Joint Armed Services Special Committee  
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Administration  
Corrections  
Military and Veterans' Affairs



*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 #108  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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

**Interim:**  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

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

## Sponsor Statement

### HB 210

*"An Act relating the drinking age...and relating to the age to possess tobacco for a person who is an active member of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Alaska National Guard."*

HB 210 would enable all active duty warriors in our U.S. Armed Forces to be treated as adults. HB 210 permits active duty service members under age 21 to consume alcoholic beverages and use tobacco products in Alaska.

"It's outrageous that a member of our military can be subjected to the horrors of war, but can't legally have a beer or smoke a cigarette," Lynn said.

According to Rep. Lynn, "any soldier who braves military combat and risks their life for this country should be treated like an adult—in every sense of the word."

HB 210 does not advocate smoking or drinking as a general practice, nor does the sponsor, but *does* advocate equal treatment for adults and the de facto adults in America's military.

# Alaska State Legislature

**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Energy Special Committee  
Joint Armed Services Special Committee  
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Administration  
Corrections  
Military and Veterans' Affairs



*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 #108  
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**Interim:**  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

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

March 29, 2011

To: Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chairman  
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chairman  
House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Fr: Representative Bob Lynn

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## HB 210 Sectional Analysis

**Sec. 1:** This section relates to *Access of Persons Under Age 21 to Licensed Premises*

**Sec. 2:** This section relates to *Possession, Control, or Consumption (of Alcohol) by Persons Under Age 21*

**Sec. 3:** This section relates to *Furnishing of Alcoholic Beverages to Persons Under the Age of 21 by Licensees*

**Sec. 4:** This section relates to *Room Rental for Purposes of Consuming Alcoholic Beverages*

**Sec. 5:** This section relates to *Permitting Minor to Illegally Possess Liquor in a Dwelling*

**Sec. 6:** This section relates to *Selling or Giving Tobacco to a Minor*

**Sec. 7:** This section relates to *Possession of Tobacco by a Minor*

**Sec. 8:** This section relates to *Selling Tobacco Outside Controlled Access*

**Sec. 9:** This section relates to *Restrictions on Shipping or Transporting Cigarettes*

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version HB 210  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

HB210-DOT-AS-4-4-11  
 Title ALCOHOL/TOBACCO FOR UNDERAGE MILITARY  
 Sponsor Representative Bob Lynn  
 Requester Military and Veterans Affairs  
 Dept. Affected Trans & Public Fac  
 Appropriation Administration & Support  
 Allocation Commissioner's Office  
 OMB Component Number 530

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

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<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>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>		<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,462.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts		<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>	<b>(15,465.0)</b>
1003 GF Match		<b>(1,391.9)</b>	<b>(1,391.9)</b>	<b>(1,391.9)</b>	<b>(1,391.9)</b>	<b>(1,391.9)</b>	<b>(1,391.9)</b>
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>	<b>(16,856.9)</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version**

Prepared by Jeff Ottesen, Director  
 Division Program Development Division  
 Approved by Marc Luiken  
 Commissioner

Phone (907) 465-6971  
 Date/Time 4/2/11 11:00 AM  
 Date 4/4/2011

## FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 210

### Analysis

This fiscal note represents a loss in federal revenues as a result of the proposed legislation, which would place the State of Alaska in noncompliance with federal regulations.

Federal regulation (23 CFR 1208.4 Adoption of National Minimum Drinking Age) requires a withholding by 10% of certain categories of federal-aid highway funding apportioned to the state each year. Three categories of federal-aid funding are targeted for the reduction: National Highway System (NHS), Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). As well, two sub-categories that are sub-allocated from these major categories would also be reduced: Planning and Research.

The language of 23 CFR 1208.4 reads: *The Secretary shall withhold ten percent of the amount required to be apportioned to any State under each of §§ 104(b)(1), 104(b)(2), 104(b)(5) and 104(b)(6) of Title 23 U.S.C. on the first day of each fiscal year in which the purchase or public possession in such State of any alcoholic beverage by a person who is less than twenty-one years of age is lawful.*

Based on projected Federal Fiscal Year 2011 funding levels (pro-rated through April 8, 2011), the state overall would lose \$15,465,000 per year beginning in FFY 2012 (October 1, 2011). This would reduce the state's overall funding level by about 3% since not all categories are subject to this 10% reduction. The reduction would be felt statewide, since the NHS program funds 2,100 miles of the state's most important highways as well as the ferries and terminals of the Alaska Marine Highway System. The CMAQ program is predominantly used in the state's designated air quality non-compliance areas that are found in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. The HSIP program is targeted to locations with significant numbers of high-risk crashes and is meant to reduce fatalities and major injuries.

Both FMATS (Fairbanks transportation planning board) and AMATS (Anchorage transportation planning board) would also see a reduction, since the state formula used to allocate funds is based on total funding received by the state. Their likely reduction would be greater than 3% since they get almost all of the CMAQ funding now and the greatest share of the HSIP funding due to the high number of crashes in major urban areas.

Planning funds would be reduced by \$232,000 and Research funding would be reduced by \$80,000. Planning and research needs have both increased dramatically in recent years due to new demands concerning the condition of the highway system and also research needs to increase efficiency of a limited number of dollars.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version HB210  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name) HB210-DPS-ABC-04-05-11 Dept. Affected Public Safety  
 Title "An Act relating to the drinking age for a person who is an active member of the armed forces...Alaska National Guard;..." Appropriation Statewide Support  
 Allocation Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
 Sponsor House Labor & Commerce  
 Requester House Military and Veterans Affairs OMB Component Number 2690

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

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants								
Miscellaneous								
<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>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other (please identify)								
<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>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)**

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by Shirley Gifford, Director  
 Division Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
 Approved by Joseph Masters  
Commissioner

Phone 269-0351  
 Date/Time 4/5/11 8:30 AM  
 Date 4/5/2011

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** HB 210

**Analysis**

HB 210 propose to make it legal for active members of the armed services of the United States and active members of the Alaska National Guard to purchase, possess, and consume tobacco products and alcohol.

It is anticipated that this legislation will have zero fiscal impact.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version HB210 1M  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): HB210-LAW-CRIM-04-1-11  
 Title An Act relating to alcohol/tobacco for underage military.

Dept. Affected Law  
 Appropriation Criminal  
 Allocation Criminal Justice Litigation

Sponsor REPRESENTATIVE(S) LYNN  
 Requester (H) Military & Veterans' Affairs

OMB Component Number 2202

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

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>								

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other (please identify)							
<b>TOTAL</b>		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

**POSITIONS**

	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)**

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by Eileen Donahue, Division Operations Manager  
 Division Administrative Services  
 Approved by John J. Burns, Attorney General  
Department of Law

Phone 465-5427  
 Date/Time 4/1/11 2:00 PM  
 Date 4/1/2011

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB210 \M

**Analysis**

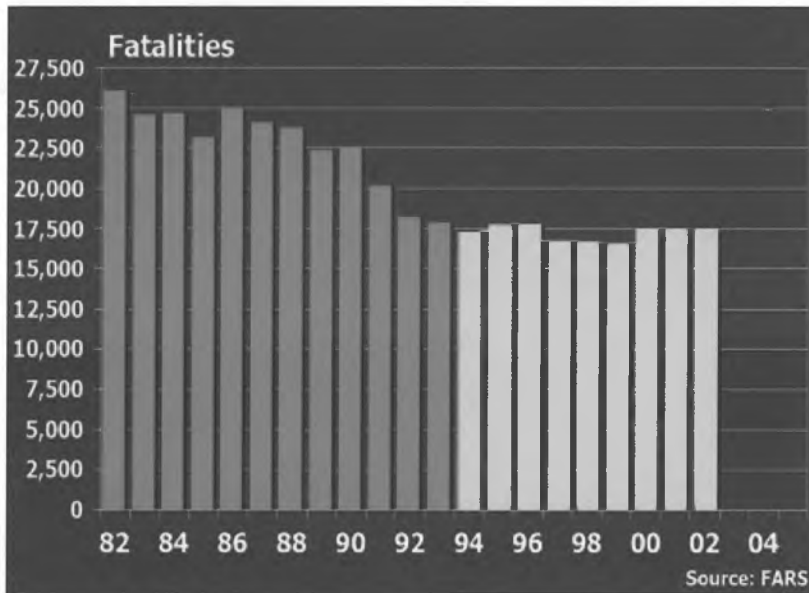
HB 210 in its current form proposes amending existing statutes to make it legal for active members of the armed services of the United States and active members of the Alaska National Guard to purchase, possess, and consume tobacco products and alcohol. There will be no fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

## Safety Concerns Related to a Lower Drinking Age for Active Duty Military

### **Drunken Driving Fatalities**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines a fatal crash as alcohol-related if either a driver or a non-motorist had a measurable or estimated blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01 or above.<sup>1</sup> Alcohol-related traffic fatalities, better known as drunken driving fatalities, were the key factor behind the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984.<sup>2</sup> As the graph shows alcohol-related traffic fatalities have decreased over the years.<sup>3</sup> Advocates of the 21 year-old drinking age have long argued that the decrease in fatalities was a result of the higher drinking age.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Number of alcohol-related fatalities from 1982-2002**



There is little disputing that this statistical decline represents the cumulative effect of a great many changes not limited to the 21 year-old drinking age. Motor vehicles are in general much safer now than they were in 1982, when, for example, air bags were rare and crash-worthiness was an unknown term.<sup>5</sup> Drivers are in general better protected, owing not only to these safety features but also to mandatory seatbelt laws.<sup>6</sup> Law enforcement is much more vigorous now than in 1982, with advances in radar and breathalyzer technology, airbag and anti-lock brake requirements, the increased use of sobriety checkpoints, advent of zero tolerance laws in all 50 states, growth in use of ignition interlock devices, and a lower minimum BAC.<sup>7</sup> Finally, the “designated driver,” a term virtually unknown in 1982, has now become commonplace. Indeed, research showing a 25% reduction in the tendency to drink and drive would seem to suggest designated driving is the norm and not the exception.<sup>8</sup>

1 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2002). *Traffic safety facts 2001: A compilation of motor vehicle crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System* (DOT HS 809 484). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation.

2 Presidential Commission Recommendations. Retrieved January 20, 2005, from: [http://www.ncadd.com/pc\\_recommendations.cfm](http://www.ncadd.com/pc_recommendations.cfm)

3 Runge, J.W. (2003, October 21). *Impaired driving in the US: Progress and research needs*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. Retrieved May 1, 2006, from: [http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/speeches/0310211Runge/ABMRF\\_Present.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/speeches/0310211Runge/ABMRF_Present.pdf)

4 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). *Why 21?* Retrieved November 8, 2005, from: <http://madd.com/under21/4847>

5 Kindelberger, J. (2005). Calculating lives saved due to minimum drinking age law. *Research Note*, March, 1-4.

6 Glassbrenner, D. (2005). Safety Belt Use in 2005 – Use Rates in the States and Territories. *NHTSA Research Note*.

7 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2004). *Traffic safety facts: Laws*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation. Retrieved July 17, 2006, from: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/new-fact-sheet03/VehicleLicensePlate.pdf>

8 Levitt, S.D. & Porter, J. (2001). How Dangerous are Drinking Drivers? *Journal of Political Economy*, 109(6), 1198-1237.

Washington DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- [Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Drunk Driving Fatalities and Population Change](#)

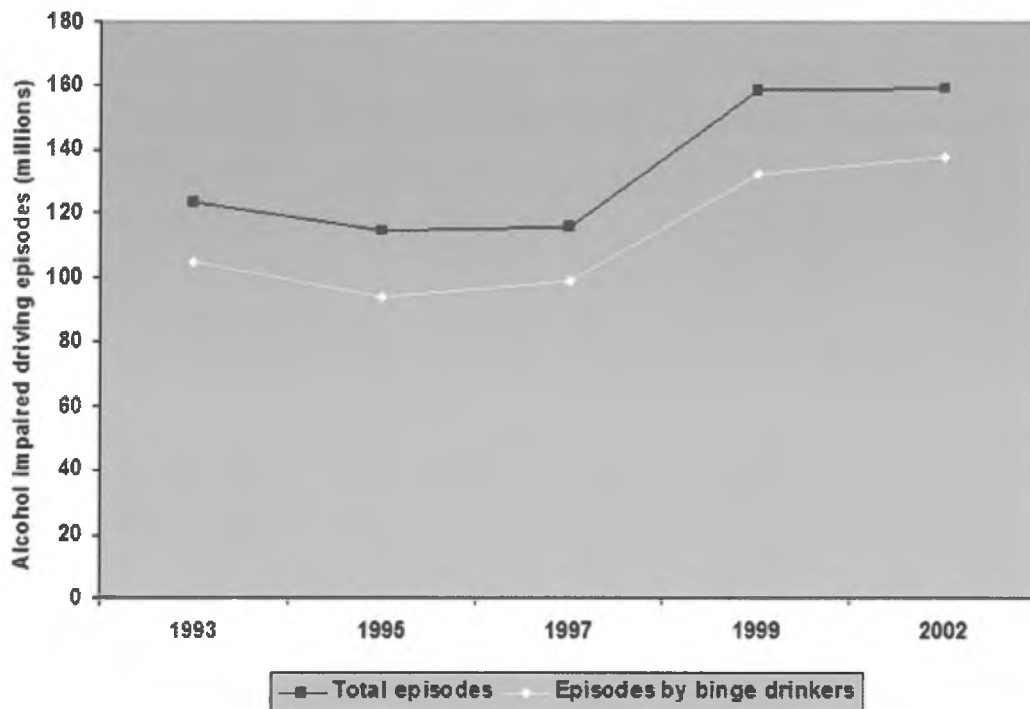
## Binge Drinking

We are facing a growing public health crisis with binge drinking. The roots of this problem are deeper than any one cause or policy—they are cultural. In order to address binge drinking, we need to consider both our laws and our societal attitudes about alcohol use. Drinking to get drunk, for anyone at any age, is unacceptable.

Over the last 25 years, some drinking laws were intended to help alleviate alcohol-related problems among young people, but may have had the unintended effect of increasing reckless drinking behavior. Under Legal Age 21, for example, we have seen a movement away from moderate consumption and towards drinking to get drunk. While there is little in the research to indicate that moderate consumption represents harm to young people, abusive consumption – binge drinking – spells trouble for our nation’s youth and for the public at large.

## Binge Drinking and Drunken Driving (citations)

While binge drinking itself is cause for concern, a new study conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggests that a rise in drunken driving in the 18-34 age group is traceable to the growth of binge drinking in that population. <sup>1</sup> “The increase in alcohol-impaired driving episodes,” the lead author Kyran Quinlan concludes, “is probably due, at least in part, to the substantial increase in binge drinking episodes.... Indeed, prevention efforts in the United States are likely to be of limited success unless they are coupled with efforts to also reduce the prevalence of binge drinking.” <sup>2</sup> Despite increased prevention efforts the number of alcohol-impaired driving episodes is greater than before.



The conclusion drawn is that the recent spike in drunken driving, after years of declining fatalities may be the result of increased binge drinking. It logically follows that the tendency to drive after drinking remains high in the 18-34 age group because binge drinking is disproportionately common amongst that population.

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1 Quinlan, K.P., Brewer, R.D., Siegel, P., Sleet, D.A., Mokdad, A.H., Shults, R.A. & Flower, N. (2005). Alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults, 1993-2002. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28(4), 346-350.

2 *ibid.*

### **Binge Drinking by the Numbers**

Despite the 21 year-old drinking age law, large numbers of young people under 21 are drinking, and often they are drinking heavily.

- 18-20 year olds experienced a 56% increase in binge drinking between 1993 and 2001.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 90% of all alcohol consumed by underage drinkers is consumed during binge drinking.<sup>2</sup>
- College students experienced a nearly 10% increase in the rate of drinking to get drunk between 1993 and 2001, which corresponded to an increase in consequences like injuries and assaults, and treatment for alcohol overdose.<sup>3</sup>

These alarming rates have serious and even life-threatening implications for young people and the rest of society

- Over 1,000 lives of 18-24 year-olds are lost annually to alcohol **off the highways**, a figure that has been increasing since 1998.<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately one in six teenagers has experienced 'black out' spells where they could not remember what happened the previous evening as a result of heavy alcohol use.<sup>5</sup>
- Among college students specifically, alcohol annually contributes to some 1,700 deaths, 599,000 injuries, and 97,000 cases of sexual assault.<sup>6</sup>
- Sixty percent of the deaths that occur as a result of underage drinking happen off the highways.<sup>7</sup>

All of this is happening in the face of a law that says until you're 21, you may not drink. The 21 year-old drinking age has been in place for nearly 25 years, and we are still facing an environment where drinking by people under 21 is the norm. These disturbing rates of law breaking and binge drinking should serve as a call to action for parents, educators, and lawmakers. We must work together to revisit this law and all the issues that have created this destructive culture.

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1 Naimi, T.S., Brewer, R.D., Mokdad, A., Denny, C., Serdula, M., & Marks, J.S. (2003). Binge drinking among U.S. Adults. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 289(1), 70-75.

2 Institutes of Medicine. (2003). *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*. Washington: National Academies Press.

3 Wechsler, H., Lee, J.E., Kuo, M., Seibring, M., Nelson, T.F. & Lee, H. (2002). Trends in college binge drinking during a period of increased prevention efforts: Findings from 4 Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study surveys 1993-2001. *Journal of American College Health*, 50(5), 203-217.

4 Hingson, R., Hereen, T., Winter, M., Weschler, H. (2005). Magnitude of alcohol related mortality and morbidity among US college students ages 18-24: Changes from 1998 to 2001. *Annual Review of Public Health*, (26), 259-279.

5 American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP Releases New Findings on Teens and Underage Drinking, Washington, D.C., 1998.

6 Hingson, R., Hereen, T., Winter, M., Weschler, H. (2005). Magnitude of alcohol related mortality and morbidity among US college students ages 18-24: Changes from 1998 to 2001. *Annual Review of Public Health*, (26), 259-279.

7 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (2006). Alcohol Alert #67: Why do adolescents drink, what are the risks, and how can underage drinking be prevented . Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

## **Drinking and Culture: International Comparisons (citations)**

Because the United States is among an extremely small minority of countries with a drinking age of 21 (Mongolia, Indonesia and Palau are the others), drinking by 18-20 year-old adults is not as intensely scrutinized in other parts of the world as it is in America. Drinking by younger adolescents, especially when excessive or risky in nature, however, is a concern widely shared by parents, public health officials, and governments throughout the world.

Recent research published by the World Health Organization found that in many European countries where the drinking age is 18 or younger (and often not enforced), 15 and 16 year-old teens have more drinking occasions per month, but fewer occasions of dangerous intoxication than their American counterparts. In many southern European countries roughly one in ten of all drinking occasions results in intoxication, while in the United States almost half of all drinking occasions result in intoxication. In these countries the introduction of alcohol typically comes from parents. In the United States, where the drinking age is 21, parents are not legally afforded that opportunity, and as a result initiation to alcohol consumption is not responsibly controlled.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Babor, T., Caetano, R., Casswell, S., Edwards, G., Giesbrecht, N., Graham, K., Grube, J., Gruenewald, P., Hill, L., Holder, H., Homel, R., Osterberg, E., Rehm, J., Room, R. & Rossow, I. (2003). *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Repeal of National Prohibition

2008 marked an important milestone: the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition. Enacted by a Constitutional amendment in 1919, Prohibition was the law of the land for thirteen years. After only a few years, it was clear to many Americans that Prohibition was a failed law. Liquor smuggling was rampant, illicit alcohol production became a serious health problem, and in many cases, alcohol consumption became more secretive and excessive than ever before. It was hardly a surprise, then, when an overwhelming majority of the American public—including many former dry advocates—pushed for repeal of Prohibition and successfully overturned the flawed amendment in 1933.

## Parallels between Legal Age 21 and Prohibition

In many ways, Legal Age 21 can be considered latter-day prohibition. It denies legal alcohol purchase and consumption to a specific group of adults who are allowed all other rights of citizenship.

· ***Excessive, reckless use of alcohol becomes norm as a law forces drinking underground and out of public settings.*** In much the same way that Prohibition removed alcohol from public settings, Legal Age 21 has forced drinking underground, behind closed doors, and far away from supervised public settings. While the Anti-Saloon League sought to shutter saloons, speakeasies sprung up in their wake, serving illegal liquor and operating outside of the law. The lessons of Prohibition hold firm today: banishing drinking from one location does not eliminate it, and may even increase the amount consumed per occasion. Drinking that is not out in the open, and drinking that requires one to find a dark corner or travel to a remote location, is drinking that puts not only the drinker, but the innocent citizen at greater risk.

· ***Disrespect for law:*** Both enactments created a situation where ordinary behavior was criminalized, where ordinary citizens were placed at odds with the law of the land. Anti-Prohibition organizations cited disrespect for law as their primary argument against the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Prohibition criminalized normative adult behavior and in so doing, turned many upstanding citizens into lawbreakers. Further frustration came from the fact that Prohibition was not a mere statute; instead it was a Constitutional Amendment and therefore ensconced in the law of the land. By banning an entire group of young adults from engaging in a behavior that is universally understood as a symbol of adulthood, Legal Age 21 also fosters rampant violation of and disrespect for law.

· ***Enacted on a moralistic impulse to change behavior, but frustrated ultimately by failure of law to bring about the desired change.*** Inherent in both enactments was a desire to not only change individual behavior, but to legislate morality. While the campaign for prohibition in the early decades of the twentieth century was arguably more emotionally charged and laden with hyperbolic statements about the evils of drink, supporters of both movements operated on a basic assumption that alcohol has only negative effects on the body and mind.

· ***Impossibility of enforcement.*** Soon after Prohibition was enacted, it became clear that the resources and manpower initially allocated would come far short of eradicating, or even making much of a dent in, alcohol manufacture, purchase and consumption. Even after a doubling of funding, violations and arrests were more numerous in each passing year, leading to increasing dissatisfaction among the general public. Under Legal Age 21, only two out of every 1,000 violations results in arrest or citation. Those who call for increased enforcement of the policy need to be reminded of the embarrassingly low rate of enforcement and also to consider the costs necessary to merely double the rate. Prohibition and Legal Age 21 are both out of step with the social reality of alcohol in American society, which history has shown that no amount of enforcement can eliminate.

· ***Creative lawbreaking.*** The images of Prohibition, of men and women descending into speakeasies, of inventing cocktails so as to mask the taste of homemade spirits with fruit juice and soda, of sleek wooden rum runners unloading their contraband cargo in beaches and coves are echoed clearly today in the images of binge drinking. Binge drinking is defined today by a clear set of images and a vocabulary that recalls that of Prohibition: of young people suspended above a keg, tap in mouth, feet in the air, chugging beer amidst the cheers of fellow partygoers; of games with names like Beer Pong, Kings, Flip Cup, and Beirut whose foremost purpose is to get contestants drunk as quickly as possible. In both cases, a subculture defined by creative law breaking has sprung up around a policy out of step with general societal attitudes about alcohol use.

*Facts and Figures furnished by:*

**Choose Responsibility**

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[info@chooseresponsibility.org](mailto:info@chooseresponsibility.org)

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POLICIES & RESOURCES

## Geneva Conventions ID Card

The information below provides an in-depth look at the distinctions between the next-generation Geneva Conventions Identification Card and the first generation Geneva Conventions Identification Card.

### Next-Generation

#### ID RECIPIENTS\*

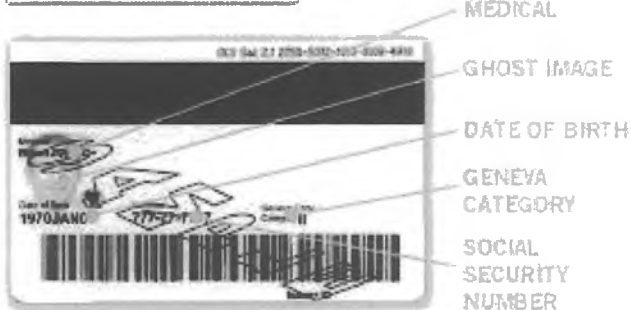
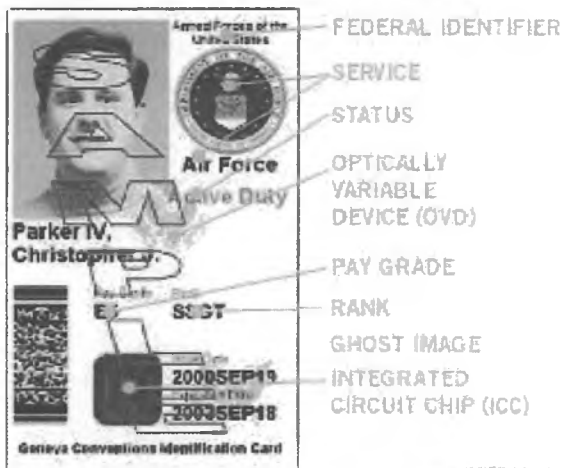
- Active Duty Armed Forces
- Selected Reserves
- National Guard
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Public Health Services
- U.S. Coast Guard

#### AFFILIATION\*

- Prior February 2005 (Active Duty, Reserve National Guard)
- After February 2005, will display branch of Service (Army, Air Force, etc.)

\*No Change

# CAC: Geneva Conventions Card



## Where would you like to go from here?

- Find out how to get the card

# TESLIN FORM FAMILY



## DD FORM 2 (RESERVE RETIRED) ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES GENEVA CONVENTIONS IDENTIFICATION CARD

RECIPIENTS: Retired members of the Reserves under the age of 60.



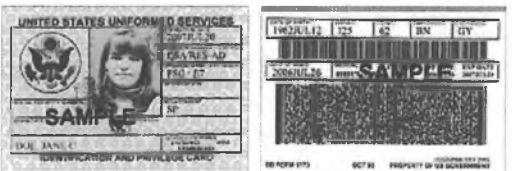
## DD FORM 2 (INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE) ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES GENEVA CONVENTIONS IDENTIFICATION CARD

RECIPIENTS: Members of the Individual Ready Reserves and Inactive National Guard.



## DD FORM 2 (RETIRED) U.S. UNIFORMED SERVICES GENEVA CONVENTIONS IDENTIFICATION CARD

RECIPIENTS: Members entitled to retired pay, members on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL), members on the Permanent Disability Retired List (PDRL).



## DD FORM 1173 UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD

RECIPIENTS: Surviving dependents (spouse, child under 21, incapacitated child 21 years of age or older, full-time student between 21 and 23, stepchild) of Active Duty members or Reservists on Active Duty in excess of 30 days, dependents of the following: members entitled to retired pay, DoD civilians, Disabled Veterans (DAV), DoD contractors, Medal of Honor recipients, other government civilians, eligible non-government personnel, Transitional Assistance and Management Program (TAMP) personnel, dependents of retirees, foreign Military, DoD beneficiaries, Reserve component members not on active duty in excess of 30 days, Ready Reserve and Standby members and Gray Area retirees as part of the Guard and/or Reserve DEERS enrollment program, former members when the former member is eligible for retired pay at age 60 but not yet age 60.



## DD FORM 1173-1 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GUARD AND RESERVE FAMILY MEMBER IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD

RECIPIENTS: Designated beneficiaries including eligible, remarried, former spouses, other eligible dependents, non-DoD/other government employees, dependents of Guard/Reserve/RESRET, dependents of former members, dependents (spouse, child under 21, incapacitated child 21 years of age or older, full-time student between 21 and 23, stepchild) of Reserve component members not on Active Duty in excess of 30 days, dependents of Ready Reserve and Standby members and Gray Area retirees as part of the Guard and/or Reserve DEERS enrollment program, dependents of former members when the former member is eligible for retired pay at age 60 but not yet age 60.



## DD FORM 2765 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD

RECIPIENTS: TAMP personnel, DAV, former members, DoD beneficiaries, Medal of Honor recipients, non-government personnel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Civilian Shipboard Officers, other government civil service personnel living in quarters in Guam or Puerto Rico, contractors on MSC-owned and operated vessels.



# Rep. Bob Lynn, State Affairs Chair

**R-Anchorage**

Email: [rep.bob.lynn@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:rep.bob.lynn@legis.state.ak.us) • Ph: 465-4931

[housemajority.org/lynn](http://housemajority.org/lynn)

[twitter.com/houmaj](https://twitter.com/houmaj)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

## LYNN INTRO'S MILITARY ADULT CONSUMPTION BILL

***HB 210 would allow under-21 active duty members adult privileges off-post***

**Monday, March 28, 2011, Juneau, Alaska** – House State Affairs Committee Chair, and Vietnam Veteran, Rep. Bob Lynn, R-Anchorage, today introduced a bill that would enable all active duty warriors in our U.S. Armed Forces to be treated as adults, regardless of age. House Bill 210 proposes permitting active duty service members under age 21 to consume alcoholic beverages and use tobacco products in Alaska.

"It's outrageous that a member of our military can be subjected to the horrors of war, but can't legally have a beer or smoke a cigarette," Lynn said. "Any soldier who braves military combat and risks their life for this country should be treated like an adult—in every sense of the word."

HB 210 does not advocate smoking or drinking as a general practice, nor does the sponsor, but *does* advocate equal treatment for adults and the de facto adults in America's military.

HB 210 was referred to the House Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs and the House Judiciary Committee.

# # #

NOTE: A copy of the bill and the sponsor statement are attached.



HEADQUARTERS  
ALASKAN COMMAND (ALCOM)  
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506

The Honorable Dan Saddler  
State Capitol Room 409  
Juneau AK 99801

APR 1 2011

Representative Saddler

We appreciate the support you have given to our men and women in uniform who have volunteered to make sacrifices beyond their contemporaries. They truly have acted to accept adult responsibilities. That said, we are concerned about Representative Lynn's HR 210 proposal to lower the military drinking age to 18 and the unintended consequences it may bring.

First, if this proposal is adopted, we will still be legally mandated to enforce the federal drinking age of 21 on military installations. We expect our young Service members will likely exercise the available legal opportunities to enjoy alcohol and suspect this proposal would encourage them to imbibe solely off-base. This off-base only environment would then lead them to find a method to return to their on-base residences. We anticipate this would trigger a spike in driving under the influence incidents.

Second, alcohol-related misconduct is already a serious issue on military installations. Our statistics show it often accounts for about a third of our total misconduct, whether the act of irresponsibility originates on or off base.

While consumption of alcohol is often regarded as a "privilege of adulthood," when our Service men and women deploy, they understand even those of drinking age may not be allowed to consume alcohol while deployed. It is just part of the sacrifice military members make.

The military has also been moving to a more tobacco-free culture in recognition of the many harmful health effects of tobacco. As part of our wellness programs, our medical community and commanders do what we can to discourage tobacco use and the resulting drain on military medical care, funded by the taxpayers of the United States. We hope you will join us in encouraging our military members to make healthy choices.

Please consider our invitation to discuss these matters in more depth. We would welcome the opportunity to give a military perspective on any proposed legislation that may impact our young men and women in uniform.

Lieutenant General Dana T. Atkins  
Commander, Alaskan Command  
9480 Pease Avenue, Suite 110  
JBER AK 99506

Major General Raymond P. Palumbo  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska  
724 Postal Service Loop #5000  
JBER AK 99505

## Defense secretary, MADD oppose lower drinking age for troops

(04/01/11 13:55:19)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is opposing Alaska state [Rep. Bob Lynn's bill](#) that would make it legal for military members under age 21 to drink and smoke. And Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a U.S. House committee in March that he doesn't support lowering the drinking age for people in the services either, [reports Fox News](#). The National Highway Safety Administration also chimed in, telling Fox News that if the bill were passed into law, Alaska would risk losing 10 percent of its annual federal highway funds.

*In other countries, the minimum drinking age for U.S. troops is 18 unless an international treaty, agreement or a local situation determined by a commander sets it higher, according to a Pentagon directive issued in 2009.*

*... The feds haven't always had a say in setting the drinking age. During and after the Vietnam war, 29 states lowered their drinking ages below 21 in the face of baby boomers protesting that they should be allowed to drink if they can be forced to risk their lives abroad.*

*But after the debate shifted to drunken driving, the federal government intervened. In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act that required all states to raise their legal drinking age to 21 by 1988 or face a 10 percent reduction in federal highway funding.*

*For Alaska, that means the state would risk losing nearly \$50 million of the state's \$495.3 million in 2010 federal highway funds if Lynn's bill passes, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration told [FoxNews.com](#), noting that it doesn't make a difference whether the law is applied to military members only or the general public.*

Gates told a House committee he would be worried about the effect of a lower drinking age on the mental health of troops already under duress.

*"One of the things we're seeing as a result of repeated tours is not just an increase in suicides but an increase in risky behaviors, particularly by young men. And so that would be a concern of mine," Gates said.*

Lynn, an Anchorage Republican, says [on his blog](#) he isn't advocating drinking or smoking, but ...

*It's outrageous that a member of our military can be subjected to the horrors of war, but can't legally have a beer or smoke a cigarette. Any soldier who braves military combat and risks their life for our country should be treated like an adult -- in every sense of the word.*

[Read more at Fox News.](#)

# State & Local

## Alaska to Consider Lowering Drinking Age for U.S. Troops

By Stephen Clark

Published March 31, 2011

| FoxNews.com



In this photo taken Wednesday, March 16, 2011, an Iraqi Army soldier, right, lights a cigarette for U.S. Army Sgt. Brett Lester, center, of Riverside, Calif., from D Co., 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during training on M1A1 Abrams tanks at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, Iraq. (AP)

Defense Secretary Robert Gates doesn't support lowering the drinking age for U.S. troops, but that hasn't deterred one Alaska lawmaker from renewing the debate over whether military members old enough to fight and die for their country are responsible enough to drink and smoke.

The argument dates back decades to the Vietnam War, and now Alaska state Republican Rep. Bob Lynn is proposing a bill that would allow military members in his state under 21 to legally drink and smoke there. Alaska residents can't legally drinking until they're 21 and legally smoke until they're 19.

Lynn has been careful to note that neither he nor his bill promotes drinking or smoking as a habit. But, he says, the bill would "enable all active duty warriors in our U.S. Armed Forces to be treated as adults, regardless of age."

"It's outrageous that a member of our military can be subjected to the horrors of war but can't legally have a beer or smoke a cigarette," Lynn wrote in his blog Monday. "Any soldier who braves military combat and risks their life for our country should be treated like an adult -- in every sense of the word."

In other countries, the minimum drinking age for U.S. troops is 18 unless an international treaty, agreement or a local situation determined by a commander sets it higher, according to a Pentagon directive issued in 2009.

Two state House committees are considering Lynn's bill now. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, opposes it.

"MADD fully supports the courageous work of our men and women in uniform," a MADD spokeswoman said in an email to FoxNews.com. "However, we believe that all Americans -- including members of the military -- should adhere to the federal 21 minimum drinking age law, which saves lives and protects still-developing young minds."

The Feds haven't always had a say in setting the drinking age. During and after the Vietnam war, 29 states lowered their drinking ages below 21 in the face of baby boomers protesting that they should be allowed to drink if they can be forced to risk their lives abroad.

But after the debate shifted to drunken driving, the federal government intervened. In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act that required all states to raise their legal drinking age to 21 by 1988 or face a 10 percent reduction in federal highway funding.

For Alaska, that means the state would risk losing nearly \$50 million of the state's \$495.3 million in 2010 federal highway funds if Lynn's bill passes, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration told FoxNews.com, noting that it doesn't make a difference whether the law is applied to military members only or the general public.

"NHTSA estimates that the 21-year-old minimum-drinking-age laws have reduced alcohol traffic fatalities by 13 percent and have saved an estimated 27,677 lives since 1975," the agency said in email. "In 2009, an estimated 623 lives were saved by minimum-drinking-age laws."

Some statehouses have considered bills lowering the limit since 1988 and a few – Kentucky, South Carolina and Wisconsin -- have targeted members of the military, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. But none of them have succeeded.

U.S. lawmakers have also tried to lower the drinking age. Most recently, Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., proposed a bill last year that would have allowed U.S. troops who are at least 18 to drink beer and wine on military bases. The bill died, but Kingston is planning to re-introduce it in the current session now that Republicans control the House, his spokesman told FoxNews.com.

But Gates, a former president of Texas A&M University, said he doesn't want to encourage drinking among the troops.

"One of the things we're seeing as a result of repeated tours is not just an increase in suicides but an increase in risky behaviors, particularly by young men. And so that would be a concern of mine," Gates said at a House committee hearing this month under questioning from Kingston.

**To: Members of the Alaska House of Representatives**

**From: Barrett Seaman, president, Choose Responsibility**

**Re: HB 210, as submitted by Rep. Bob Lynn (R-Anchorage)**

I represent Choose Responsibility, a five-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to re-opening the debate in the U.S. over what our minimum drinking age policy should be. We believe that MLDA 21, as mandated by the National Minimum Legal Drinking Age Act of 1984, is part of the problem—not the solution to the abusive drinking behaviors common among younger Americans.

I invite members of the Alaska legislature to view our web site ([www.chooseresponsibility.org](http://www.chooseresponsibility.org)) for a more complete statement of our position.

We fully support Rep. Lynn's proposal to allow American servicemen and women under the age of 21 to consume alcohol—legally. I'm confident that the vast majority of Americans agree with us when we say that there is something very wrong when a 19- or 20-year-old soldier with a chest full of battle ribbons and maybe even a prosthetic arm or a leg can't walk into a bar or restaurant and order a beer.

Our view is that drinking is a learned responsibility and that MLDA 21 simply prolongs the learning process while at the same time it fosters a general disrespect for the law. MLDA 21 has not stopped "underage" drinking. It has merely pushed it underground, behind closed doors where young people learn to drink—not from other responsible adults but from each other at a time in their lives when they are going to experiment with alcohol whether it's legal for them to do so or not.

We believe that all American citizens, defined by every other measure as those 18 and older, should be allowed to drink. But our soldiers and sailors are a good starting point, for they have already demonstrated by their commitment to country and their military discipline that they have the wherewithal to serve as good examples.

I recognize, as Rep. Lynn does, that passage of this act would put Alaska in jeopardy of forfeiting ten percent of its federal highway funds by being in violation of the 1984 federal act. But if Alaska is willing to stand up to this clever bit of federal blackmail, then I'm convinced other states will follow.

There is already legislation proposed, by Rep. Jack Kingston of Georgia, to allow military personnel to consume alcohol within the confines of their bases. Your efforts in Alaska will provide vital political support for Congressman Kingston's efforts.

We stand ready to do what we can to provide support for your efforts.

**Charlene Ditton**

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**From:** Kim Greer [kag@sphosp.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2011 9:50 AM  
**To:** LIO Homer  
**Subject:** House Bill 210

To whom it may concern,

I am unable to attend the hearing at the Homer LIO and would like to submit my comment for public record re: House Bill 210 in the House Special Committee of Military and Veteran Affairs.

I think it absurd to consciously slip back into time and knowingly impeded progress. Please do not even consider lowering the age for drinking or smoking for military "kids". This is a health related issue. This is not a perk! We need to move forward on the prevention of illness, REGARDLESS of the path young people decide to take for work, i.e., the military. It seems to me that the government would not and should not endorse this. In the end it will cost millions of dollars more in health care for these kids. We should continue to move toward prevention of alcoholism, liver disease and early death, COPD, lung cancers, heart disease, and early death! This would only come across as another "perk" to join the military. Further more, maybe we should consider making the minimum military age to be 21 instead of 18. These young people are not even done growing, mentally or physically, when they are shipped off to kill others, and experience horrendous events.

**Just say NO!**

In Health,  
Kim A. Greer RN  
235-4310

## Susan Wallen

---

**From:** Hewitt, Brenda L (DOT) [brenda.hewitt@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson  
**Subject:** HB 210, Drinking Age of Military Personnel

FYI:

---

**From:** [John.Moffat@dot.gov](mailto:John.Moffat@dot.gov) [mailto:[John.Moffat@dot.gov](mailto:John.Moffat@dot.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:36 AM  
**To:** Edgmon, Bryce E (LAA)  
**Cc:** Cashen, Cindy L (DOT); [Shirley.Wise@dot.gov](mailto:Shirley.Wise@dot.gov); [Tom.Louizou@dot.gov](mailto:Tom.Louizou@dot.gov); [Heidi.Coleman@dot.gov](mailto:Heidi.Coleman@dot.gov)  
**Subject:** HB 210, Drinking Age of Military Personnel

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon, Chairman  
House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Facilities  
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I note that another committee of your body is reviewing HB210 (Drinking age for Military Personnel) today. I am concerned with the impact that actions on this bill may have on Alaska's transportation finances.

I invite your attention to the provisions of federal law (23 USC § 158) and to the federal regulations (23 CFR § 1208) that implement that code:

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=437845be569c3673bd64eec845a52dc6&rgn=div5&view=text&node=23:1.0.2.14.5&idno=23>

As you can see, the law and regulations do not permit a military exception to the 21 year old drinking age. I address this communication to you since your committee oversees this area of finance.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Moffat

John M. Moffat, Regional Administrator  
Region 10 - Pacific Northwest  
**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
Jackson Federal Building  
915 2ND AVE, STE 3140  
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(206) 799-6347 mobile  
[john.moffat@dot.gov](mailto:john.moffat@dot.gov)