

HB

129

<TARGET><BILL>HB 129</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
129</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/14/11

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3-27-11

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 129(FIN)

HB 129 DECEASED VETERAN DEATH CERTIFICATE

"An Act relating to providing a death certificate for a deceased veteran without charge."

and recommends:

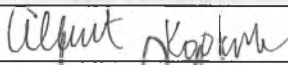
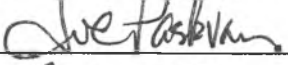
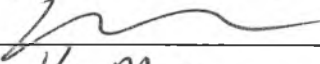
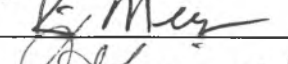
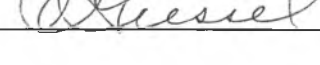
- [] be replaced with SCS HB 129 (STA) [] Same Title [] Technical Title Change
[X] New Title/SCR No. _____
- [] adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) [] Same Title [] Technical Title Change
[] New Title/SCR No. _____
- [] attached amendment(s)
- [] adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- [] further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DHS	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

[] APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Kookesh	✓			
	PASKVAN	x			
	Wielechowski	X			
	Meyer	X			
	Giessel	x			
CHAIR:					

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Representative Max F. Gruenberg, Jr.

House District 20

Anchorage (Mountain View, Russian Jack, East Anchorage)

House Minority Floor Leader

Member

Standing Committees:

Judiciary
State Affairs
Transportation
Rules

Finance Subcommittees:

Transportation
Courts
Law

Interim:

716 W 4th Avenue, Rm 350
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0123
Fax: (907) 269-0124

Session:


Alaska State Capitol, Rm 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4940
Toll Free: (866) 465-4940
Fax: (907) 465-3766

Email:

Rep.Max.Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Bill Wielechowski, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Max Gruenberg 

DATE: April 13, 2011

RE: HB 129 – Deceased Veteran Death Certificate

Please consider this memo as a request for House Bill 129 to be heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee. Accompanying this memo are the following documents:

- CSHB 129(FIN) (27-LS0450\I)
- CSHB 129(MLV) (27-LS0450\B)
- HB 129 (27-LS0450\A)
- Sponsor Statement
- Explanation of Changes
- Example Death Certificate
- Fiscal Note

Thank you for considering my request for a hearing on HB 129. Please contact my legislative aide, Gretchen Staft, at 465-4940 with any questions.

Member

Standing Committees:

Judiciary
Rules
State Affairs
Transportation

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House Bill 129:

Deceased Veteran Death Certificate

Explanation of Changes

CS for HB 129 (FIN) (27-LS0450\I) to SCS for CS for HB 129() (27-LS0450\D)

There were three changes from the House Finance Committee version introduced before the committee to the most recent blank Senate Committee Substitute.

1. The title (page 1, line 1) was changed to reflect that more than one death certificate would be produced free of charge.
2. Language on page 2, lines 22-25 of both versions was clarified to show that there would be only four free death certificates given out per deceased veteran. The previous language was unclear as to whether four free death certificates were to be given per deceased veteran or whether four free death certificates were to be given per claimant (i.e. whether for the same decedent, a wife, a mother, a son, etc. could each get four). The CS makes it clear that only a total of four free death certificates can be given out for each deceased veteran.
3. Language was added (page 2, line 26-page 3, line 2 of the "D" version) to clarify that only certain individuals could claim the deceased veteran's free death certificates. These individuals are:
 - A personal representative of the veteran's estate;
 - A trustee of a revocable trust of which the veteran was the settlor; or
 - A person who needs a copy of the veteran's death certificate to claim a benefit related to the death of the veteran.

These claimants are not prioritized; the first in time will prevail.

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HB 129 DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR DECEASED VETERANS

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 129 provides a death certificate, without cost, to a surviving spouse, next of kin, or other relative of a deceased veteran. The bill is modeled after an Arizona statute and will provide one copy to the eligible recipient. HB 129 demonstrates the state's respect for Alaska's veterans and their families and will provide a valuable service to military families in their time of bereavement.

If you have any questions about the bill, please contact my legislative aide, Gretchen Staff, at 465-4940.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 129.

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



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House District 20

Anchorage (Mountain View, Russian Jack, East Anchorage)
House Minority Floor Leader

Member

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HB 129

DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR DECEASED VETERANS

Explanation of Changes

Changes between HB 129 (27-LS0450\A) and CSHB 129(MLV) (27-LS0450\B):

Paragraph (i) on page 3, lines 4-10 of HB 129 was restructured, incorporating the following changes:

- 1) References to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserves were omitted in the CS because they are a branch of the "armed services," which is already included in the paragraph.
- 2) References in HB 129 to "Alaska Army National Guard" and "Alaska Air National Guard" were eliminated in the CS, and "National Guard" was substituted as an umbrella term.

These are stylistic changes and are in no way intended to exclude any service members covered in the original bill.

Changes between CSHB 129(MLV) (27-LS0450\B) and CSHB 129(FIN) (27-LS0450\I):

Page 2, lines 22-25: Instead of issuing one free death certificate to each eligible recipient, the Bureau of Vital Statistics is authorized to issue up to four free certified copies of a death certificate for a deceased veteran, regardless of who makes the request.

The definition of "eligible recipient" was deleted (page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 2 of CSHB 129 (MLV)).

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

STATE OF ARIZONA

ORIGINAL STATE COPY

STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES - OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DEATH NO. D 102-

Form with fields for Name of Deceased (SIMON EPSTEIN), Date of Death (JANUARY 31 2004), Race (WHITE), Sex (MALE), Place of Birth (YAVAPAI), Age (83), Cause of Death (ASPIRATION), and other vital statistics.

FOR GOVERNMENT USE ONLY. Pursuant to A.R.S. 39-122, this copy has been issued free of charge for the purpose of applying for and obtaining Veteran's Social Security Benefits and shall not be valid for any other purpose.

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS

STATE OF ARIZONA COUNTY OF YAVAPAI

DATE ISSUED FEB 06 2004

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the VITAL RECORDS SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, PHOENIX, ARIZONA. Issued under the authority of A.R.S. 36-341, and by direction of:

Marcia M Jacobson MARCIA MORAN JACOBSON YAVAPAI COUNTY REGISTRAR YAVAPAI COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



152164

This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying county seal in color and raised seal of issuing agency.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 129(MLV)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/23/11

Identifier (file name): HB129-DHSS-BVS-2-21-2011 Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: Deceased Veteran Death Certificate Appropriation: Public Health
 Allocation: Bureau of Vital Statistics
 Sponsor: Rep. Max Gruenberg
 Requester: House MLV Committee OMB Component Number: 961

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES		(75.0)	(80.0)	(85.0)	(90.0)	(95.0)	(100.0)
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF		75.0	0.0	80.0	85.0	90.0	100.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts		(75.0)	0.0	(80.0)	(85.0)	(90.0)	(100.0)
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other (please identify)							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost: 0.0

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: Ward Hurlburt, M.D. MPH - Chief Medical Officer / Director
 Division: Public Health
 Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Phone 269-6680
 Date/Time 2/21/11 12:00 PM
 Date 2/21/2011

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 129(MLV)

Analysis:

Under this bill family members or representatives (executors, etc.) of deceased veterans may each request one free certified copy of the veteran's death certificate. This bill would allow many members or representatives of the veteran's family to separately request a free death certificate.

This bill will reduce the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) program receipts/fees by an estimated \$75.0 in the first year, increasing each year to a projected loss of \$100.0 by Year 5. Because BVS relies substantially on fees to support its operating costs, any loss of these program receipts will have an immediate impact on staffing and quality of service to the public if not replaced by general funds. About 3% of the FY11 budget for BVS is GF (\$91.1). In contrast, 80% of the BVS budget for FY11 comes from program receipts (GF/Pgm).

The Bureau estimates that initially 75% of veteran's families will be aware of the bill, increasing to nearly 100% over five years. About 30 percent (approximately 1000 deaths) of total deaths in Alaska per year indicate the decedent was a veteran. It is estimated that between three to five family members (or executors) will qualify for a death certificate at no charge (families have been known to request as many as 40 copies of a death certificate). Assuming 3 to 4 certificates per death, the impact to the Bureau is projected to be between 3,000 to 4,000 certificates issued at no charge annually. The fee for a death certificate is \$25. It is anticipated the impact would be comparatively less for the first few years and then increase as more families become aware of the new law.

The fiscal impact will be approximately \$75.0 for the first year the legislation is in effect (\$25 x 3,000 certified copies, assuming just 750 families will request on average four certificates each in the first year), increasing to \$100.0 by Year 5 (\$25 x 4,000 certified copies) as more people become aware of the new benefit provided by this law. The Bureau will experience a greater loss of revenue if this bill generates more than four requests per death, or if the number of decedents who are veterans exceeds 1000 in a year. If the current level of staffing and service to the public is to be maintained, these lost program receipts will have to be replaced with GF.