

HB

125

<TARGET><BILL>HB 125</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
125</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB125

“An Act relating to a veteran’s designation on an identification card or a driver’s license for Hmong veterans and Lao veterans.”

Sponsor Statement

The United States of America has long been true and faithful on our commitments made to our friends and allies, world over. Hmong veterans and Laotian veterans fought alongside US soldiers during the Vietnam War and when the war ended, were promised veteran recognition. Through HB125, we are seeking to honor that commitment through a designation on an identification card or a driver’s license.

In the 1960’s, the CIA recruited Hmong soldiers to help the US fight in Vietnam and Laos. Between 1962 and 1975, about 12,000 Hmong soldiers died fighting against the Laotians. After the US withdrawal from Vietnam in 1975, the Lao kingdom was overthrown by the communist party and the Hmong became targets. The Hmong people were displaced and relocated from Laos to Thailand, some even ending up in UN refugee camps. Some of the Hmong people were sent to re-education camps, where most ended up dying. It’s been estimated that 30,000 Hmong were killed by the communists while trying to reach Thailand. Over 100,000 Hmong people died as a result of both the Vietnam and the “Secret War.”

The Hmong people put their faith and trust in the United States government, which promised them citizenship and veteran status after the war. It has now been over fifty years later and we are asking that the promise be honored. We owe all our veterans respect for their respective efforts on behalf of this great nation. To truly and deeply acknowledge sacrifices made for the betterment of our nation, we must recognize how much our Hmong veterans and Lao veterans gave and lost for our country.

To keep the promise offered half a century ago, I ask for your support of HB125.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

To: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Chair of House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Geran Tarr

Handwritten initials, possibly "G.T.", in black ink.

Re: House State Affairs Scheduling Request for HB 125

Date: April 7, 2017

I respectfully request you schedule House Bill 125 for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience. HB 125- LAO/HMONG VETERAN DRIVER'S LIC. & ID CARD is timely bill that will show the State of Alaska's support for Lao and Hmong veterans and their service to our country.

Included with this scheduling request you will find the current versions of HB 125, sponsor statement, zero fiscal note and supporting documents.

We have been working with Lao and Hmong veterans in Alaska and they are extremely excited about this piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact myself or my aide, Thatcher Brouwer, at 465-6007, with any questions or concerns.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 125
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB125-DOA-DMV-03-31-17
Title: LAO/HMONG VETERAN DRIVER'S LIC. & ID CARD
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: House Military & Veterans Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Motor Vehicles
Allocation: Motor Vehicles
OMB Component Number: 2348

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY2018 Appropriation Requested | Included in Governor's FY2018 Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | FY 2018 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Positions

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

Change in Revenues

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Prepared By: | Marla Thompson, Director | Phone: | (907)269-5574 |
| Division: | Motor Vehicles | Date: | 03/31/2017 10:00 AM |
| Approved By: | Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner | Date: | 03/31/17 |
| Agency: | Department of Administration | | |

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 125

Analysis

HB 125 amends AS 18.65.310(l) and AS 28.15.111(c) and requires DMV to provide a veteran designator and United States flag replica on a driver's license or identification card of Hmong or Lao veterans that request the designator and meet the eligibility requirements. DMV will work with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to determine what type of proof is needed to verify eligibility.

DMV may not charge an addition fee to add the designator, but may charge \$5 to replace a valid license or ID card that doesn't currently have the designator with one that does.

DMV can provide these services for minimal additional resources, therefore, a zero fiscal note is submitted.



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

March 24, 2017

Honorable Geran Tarr
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 125 - An Act relating to a veteran's designation on an identification card or a driver's license for Hmong veterans and Lao veterans.

Dear Representative Tarr,

The Municipality of Anchorage extends its support for HB 125. Your sponsorship of this bill is appreciated.

This bill provides necessary and deserved recognition for the many Hmong and Lao people who fought alongside American troops during the Vietnam War. The Hmong and Lao veterans deserve the same rights and privileges as any American veteran.

Serving our country is of the highest honor and should be recognized. This bill is a positive change for the state of Alaska and I am happy to lend my support.

Sincerely,

Ethan Berkowitz

Magdalena Oliveros

From: Mai Xiong [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr
Cc: Pasert Lee
Subject: Re: House Bill, 125 and Senator Bill 59

Hi, My Name is Mai Xiong I'm a constituent in your area, i'm asking you to support House Bill 125 and Senator Bill 59 to allow Hmong Veterans to have a veteran status on a Drivers License, ID, License Plate. Our Hmong Veterans fought along side with US soldiers during the Vietnam war since Feb 28, 1961 to May 15, 1975 and were promised Veteran recognition. We are asking that Commitment to be honored. we want to ask our Senators, House Representatives and Communities. It's been over 42 years now. We sacrificed our lives for the US soldiers. with out our Hmong people the US soldiers will die about 63% of 58,000 during that time. American total 367000. We save american about 58,000

Thank you

Mai Xiong