

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2005-2006 2932

1 * Sec. 4. AS 16.05.341 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 16.05.341. Free license for disabled veterans and active members of**
3 **the Alaska National Guard.** A person may receive a resident hunting and sport
4 fishing license under AS 16.05.340(a)(5) without charge if the person

5 (1) has been discharged from military service under honorable
6 conditions, is eligible for a loan under AS 18.56.101, and is certified by the United
7 States Department of Veterans Affairs as having incurred a 50 percent or greater
8 disability during military service; [OR]

9 (2) served in the Alaska Territorial Guard, is eligible for a loan under
10 AS 18.56.101, and incurred a 50 percent or greater disability while serving in the
11 Alaska Territorial Guard; or

12 **(3) is an active member of the Alaska National Guard.**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: CSHB 387(EDU)
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Tuition Waiver for National Guard Family RDU: Administration and Support
Component: Administrative Services
Sponsor: Representative Bill Thomas
Requester: House HES Committee Component No.: 470

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	(65.7)	(65.7)	(65.7)	(65.7)	(65.7)	(65.7)
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	65	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Fiscal note reflects estimated change in revenues to the Fish and Game Fund for complimentary sport fishing and hunting licenses to Alaska National Guard (ANG) members. There are currently 3,600 ANG members. Based on resident sales, 50% of the ANG would purchase a sport fishing license and 25% would purchase a hunting license. Total revenue loss to Fish and Game Fund is estimated to be \$65,700.

Prepared by: Tom Lawson Phone: 465-5999
Division: Administrative Services Date/Time: 4/19/06 4:30 PM
Approved by: McKie Campbell Date: 4/19/2006
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB387(EDU)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Alaska National Guard Complimentary Licenses

Type of License Sold	Number of ANG	License Fee	Revenue	% of Alaskans who purchase licenses	Total Revenue
R Fishing Lic	3600	\$24.00	\$86,400.00	50%	\$43,200.00
R Hunting Lic	3600	\$25.00	\$90,000.00	25%	\$22,500.00
Total			\$176,400.00		\$65,700.00

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB387
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: University of Alaska
Title TUITION WAIVER FOR NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY RDU
Sponsor REPRESENTATIVE(s) THOMAS, Croft Component _____
Requester _____ Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the University, assuming that Alaska Department of Military & Veteran Affairs continues to fund 50 percent of the tuition waivers for eligible National Guard members as it currently does and will fund waivers for families of members of the Alaska National Guard in a similar manner.

Prepared by: Pat Pitney
Division: University of Alaska
Approved by: Pat Pitney
Agency: University of Alaska

Phone 450-8191
Date/Time 4/10/06 12:00 AM
Date 4/10/2006

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Representative Bill Thomas – District 5
Representative Eric Croft -- District 25

CSHB 387 – Tuition Waiver for National Guard Families Sponsor Statement

CSHB 387 has three provisions, which will substantially benefit the Alaska National Guard. First, CSHB 387 gives a 50 percent tuition waiver to dependents of Alaska National Guard members. For the past two years the Alaska National Guard has not met its year-end membership goals. This is attributed in large part to the family being the decision maker for these soldiers. Therefore, when the family gives up so much to support these soldiers but gets nothing in return, the pull to leave the Guard is strong. The waiver benefits families who give up so much to support their loved one while serving in the National Guard.

Second, CSHB 387 solves the current funding problems of tuition waivers that are promised to Alaska National Guard members. Soldiers who have been promised higher education benefits are not always receiving them. Each year the funding is exhausted and guard members are being denied the assistance they need to continue their education. By directing the adjutant general to request a supplemental appropriation from the Legislature, the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs can fund both the new and previously established tuition waivers.

Finally, CSHB 387 allows Alaska National Guard members to receive free hunting and fishing licenses. This not only is an important recruiting tool, but it is also a way for the state of Alaska to show its appreciation to those who sacrifice so much to protect our country and our state.

The War in Iraq has seen the first mobilization of Alaska National Guard members into overseas combat. The commitment that these men and women make upon joining the National Guard is much more than one weekend a month and two weeks a year. The Alaska National Guard is fighting for our country and protecting our state. They deserve our support. I respectfully urge your support for CSHB387.

Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs
Alaska National Guard Benefits
Educational Benefits

For FY07, DMVA is requesting an increment of \$25.0 GF to increase the program funding of this component. If approved, total funding for this component will be \$378.5 GF. If the increment is not approved, the total would be \$353.5 GF.

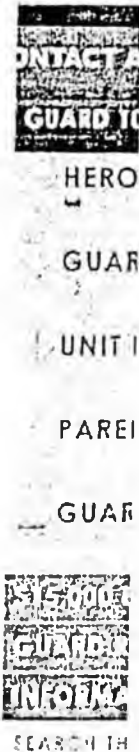
DMVA provides tuition assistance in two forms: UA Tuition Scholarship Program and State Tuition Assistance Program (Non-UA schools). This assistance is available to all guard members (full-time and weekenders) as long as they are guard members no later than the last day of late registration and for the duration of the time period for which Alaska National Guard state education benefits are awarded.

According to DMVA, the UA Tuition Scholarship Program in FY05 had 376 guard members use the program to further their education. In comparison, FY04 saw 475 members use the program. The decrease was not due to a decline in the interest in the program, but rather the increase in tuition credit costs (from \$82 to \$109 per credit). All FY05 funds were spent prior to 2005 summer semester. DMVA was able to have 34 guard members attend the summer session because the UA absorbed tuition costs of approximately \$36.0. In addition, DMVA reports that there is a 10% increase in members applying for educational assistance.

The State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) had 36 members use \$28.5. 26 additional applicants totaling \$29.5 were denied due to lack of funding. As with the above program, tuition credit cost increases and increased members applying have tapped this program.

I understand that the University provides the services on the bases.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
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- What Does The Guard Do In The Community?
- Who Joins The Army National Guard?
- What are the service obligations in the National Guard?
- What is the National Guard?

What Does The Guard Do In The Community?

Guard units across America play an important role in their community. The Army National Guard brings additional spending dollars into local communities.

From the assistance each soldier provides while in uniform to the work that they do in their civilian jobs, Guard members are leaders in their community. Whether it's teaching classes at local high schools, or providing events for students at local armories, Guard members think getting involved with the future of our children is essential. By providing medical support to communities through "GuardCare" or providing groups a place to hold meetings in their local armories, the Army National Guard is always there and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Who Joins The Army National Guard?

Members range from doctors and lawyers to college students and everyone in between. There are housewives, teachers, and ministers in the Army National Guard.

There are many reasons for joining the Guard. Regardless, there's a special pride that comes with serving side by side with other members of your community.

What are the service obligations in the National Guard?

Army National Guard members are required to attend one drill weekend each month and one annual training period each year. Weekend drills are usually scheduled over one weekend - a Saturday and Sunday each month but can occasionally include reporting for duty on Friday night. In addition, units have a two week annual training (AT) period every year which is usually scheduled during the summer. Initially, all personnel are required to attend initial entry training (IET), which can usually be scheduled to meet civilian occupation scheduling requirements. Duration and location of IET varies according to career specialty - a recruiter can provide specific information for each Military Occupational Specialty.

What is the National Guard?

The National Guard is one branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The National Guard consists of both Army National Guard and Air National Guard components. The National Guard is composed of full time and part time soldiers, as well as civilians, who together serve their country. Each state and territory has its own National Guard, as provided by the United States Constitution.

Alaska Army National Guard Recruiting Incentives Info Paper

The Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG) has missed its recruiting end strength objective for the second straight year. FY04 and FY05 end strength objective was 1850, current end strength is 1815. National Guard Bureau has ordered an increase of 100 over current end strength objective to 1950 for FY06. How can the AKARNG maintain its current soldiers and increase ES objective for FY06?

1. AKARNG enlisted 400 personnel in FY05
2. AKARNG discharged 327 personnel in FY05

Current and historical incentive programs concentrate on the applicant or serving soldier. In the current political and social climate more and more serving and potential soldiers are being dissuaded by information and arguments offered by personal decision makers (wife, parents, girlfriends, children, etc.) What incentives are available to the AKARNG Recruiter/Career Counselor combating objections from these decision makers? PX and Commissary privileges, MWR privileges, life insurance; virtually nothing is DIRECTLY aimed at the DECISION MAKER. What incentives are available to the applicant or current AKARNG member?

- A. \$10,000.00 Non-Prior Service Enlistment Bonus (3yr)
- B. \$15,000.00 Prior Service Enlistment Bonus (6yr)
- C. \$15,000.00 Extension Bonus to current AKARNG members (6yr)
- D. SRMGIB, \$297.00 per month for 36 Months Full-Time (6yr)
- E. SRMGIB Kicker, \$200.00 per month (if qualified)
- F. Federal Tuition Assistance, \$4500.00 per FY
- G. Student Loan Repayment Program, \$20,000.00(NPS) *rarely used*
- H. State Re-Enlistment Bonus, Sec. 26.05.265 *NOT FUNDED*
- I. Educational assistance for enlisted personnel, Sec.26.05.295 *UNKNOWN*
- J. State Tuition Assistance, Sec. 26.05.296 *Not FULLY FUNDED relies on F.*

All of these incentives are geared specifically to the applicant or current service member; none of them directly impact the decision makers. What would the advantage be of offering an Educational Incentive to the applicant/service member that is only for their dependents? The DMVA/AKARNG could offer a minimum of a 50% Tuition Waiver to any UA campus for any dependent of an AKARNG member.

Written by: Master Sergeant Clinton K. Brown II
Alaska Army National Guard Area NCOIC

Alaska Army National Guard Recruiting Incentives Info Paper

All of the current incentives require a 3 to 6 year commitment by the applicant and service member, which is normally the greatest impediment to overcoming a decision maker's objective to enlisting or maintaining membership. The Decision Maker is first and foremost concerned about the prospects of their soldier being deployed over such and long period of time. The Family Member Tuition Waiver would assist in eliminating this and many other objectives by giving direct benefits to the soldier's family.

If 35 soldiers would have remained in the guard because of a Family Member benefit, the AKARNG would have maintained its End Strength and met the NGB mission.

Article 03. FREE TUITION AND FEES FOR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL

Sec. 14.43.080. Free tuition and fees at state-supported educational institutions. [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 50 SLA 1991].

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 14.43.085. Free tuition and fees for a spouse or dependent of a peace officer or members of the armed services or a fire department.

(a) A person enrolled as a student in good standing in a state supported educational institution in this state is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees if the person was the spouse or dependent child of a bona fide resident of the state who was

(1) a member of the armed services and who died in the line of duty or who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of duty for the state or federal government or who was listed by the United States Department of Defense as a prisoner of war or as missing in action; or

(2) a peace officer or a member of a fire department who died from an act arising out of and in the course of

(A) employment as a peace officer or a fire fighter; or

(B) duties as a volunteer fire fighter.

(b) In this section,

(1) "armed services" means the Alaska National Guard, Alaska Naval Militia, and the armed services of the United States;

(2) "dependent child" means a person who was a dependent of a peace officer or of a member of the armed services or a fire department at the time of the peace officer's or member's death, and who is

(A) the peace officer's or member's natural or adopted child;

(B) a child in relation to whom the deceased armed services member, fire fighter, or peace officer stood in loco parentis for at least three years before the peace officer's or member's death;

(C) the peace officer's or member's stepchild; or

(D) the peace officer's or member's acknowledged illegitimate child;

(3) "fire department" means a federal, state, or municipal fire department or a regularly organized volunteer fire department registered with the state fire marshal;

(4) "line of duty" has the meaning given under federal law;

(5) "peace officer" has the meaning given in AS 01.10.060 and includes a correctional officer;

(6) "resident" means a person who resided in the state for at least one year before serving in the armed services and who lists Alaska as the home state for purposes of military records, or a person who was employed as a peace officer in this state or was a member of a fire department located in this state;

(7) "spouse" means a person who was married to a peace officer or to a member of the armed services or a fire department at the time of the peace officer's or member's death.

Sec. 26.05.295. Educational assistance for enlisted personnel.

(a) Each active enlisted member of the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska Naval Militia who has completed the initial voluntary enlistment period of service that fulfills the mandatory requirement for military service under 50 U.S.C. App. 451 - 456, 458 - 471 (Military Selective Service Act of 1967) is eligible for educational assistance benefits in Alaska educational facilities.

(b) Except as provided in this subsection, educational programs and monetary benefits available to persons under (a) of this section are based on and equivalent to those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs education program. Educational assistance may only be provided for a program or class in which the person is a student in good standing.

(c) *[Repealed, Sec. 5 ch 25 SLA 1997].*

(d) *[Repealed, Sec. 5 ch 25 SLA 1997].*

Sec. 26.05.296. Tuition assistance.

(a) To the extent funds are available, the adjutant general may authorize the payment of up to 100 percent of the cost of tuition and required fees for each active member of the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska Naval Militia if the member attends an educational, vocational, or technical training school in this state. The adjutant general may prioritize categories of education benefits to encourage recruitment and retention of Alaska National Guard members. Payments authorized under this section for active members of the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska Naval Militia continue so long as the active member is a student in good standing in the educational program or class and participates satisfactorily in unit training activities.

(b) *[Repealed, Sec. 5 ch 25 SLA 1997].*

Sec. 26.05.298. Definition for AS 26.05.295 and 26.05.296.

In AS 26.05.295 and 26.05.296, "good standing" means the student is enrolled, attending, and meeting the minimum requirements for successful completion of the program or class.

Questions for ANG dependents tuition waiver

1. How many people are currently enlisted in the Alaska National Guard?
*1800 as of today in the Army National Guard, 2500 for the Alaska Air Guard
2. How many enlist each year?
*350-400 per FY for the Army Guard, 250 per FY for the Air Guard
3. Other states that have this sort of program?
*None that we are aware of, there are 54 different National Guards in the US and territories.
4. How many other states have not met their quota in the past four years?
*90% of states have not made their End Strength Mission for the last three Years, the year prior to that would have been fairly successful nation wide.
5. What is the average age of the current ANG member?
*32.8 years old.
6. If the number is available, there are how many Alaska National Guardsmen dependants?
*Information unavailable
7. What is the number of dependents college age or above?
*Information unavailable
8. Who pays for the current tuition waivers? (Sec. 14.43.085 - waivers for dependents of public servants that died in the line of duty and Sec. 26.05.295 – waivers for current Alaska National Guard Members)
*Section 14 is covered by the University of Alaska (a) and Sec 26 is paid for by DMVA (b).
 - (a) How is that divided out of the budget?
*Its not, the university eats the cost of tuition waivers

(b) How is that divided out of the budget?

*The Dept of Military and Veteran's Affairs turns in a budget with a set amount on it for the UA Scholarship program and that is the amount that the legislature gives them and they use for the program.

1) How is that asking amount determined?

*The asking amount is figured out by numbers put together from the year before statistics, numbers that have joined, and numbers that have left and a few other statistics.

2) Do they get what they ask for every year?

*No. The office of management and budget looks at the numbers and determines that those numbers are not feasible or workable and the DMVA and OMB come to an agreement on a number that does not satisfy the DMVA's need. They are sending the numbers from the Murkowski administration as to how much funding is cut each year.

3) Are all students funded with what is allotted for the DMVA education program and if not, how many are?

*No they are not. In FY05 the numbers dropped from 475 to 376, a difference of 99 guardsmen from FY04. The program did not lose men because of lack of interest but because the increased cost of tuition.

9. Is all of that money currently being used for a) University and b) DMVA

a) *N/A because University just eats the costs.

b) *DMVA uses every cent they are given. In fiscal year 2006 200 people applied for funding under the program. We won't have official numbers for this year until about 2 weeks when fee payment is over for all the universities.

When varying a guess Lt. Poletzky estimated that 60-70% of applicants are funded on average. Of that percentage about half are asking for full time funding and half are asking for part time funding. Of the entire bunch almost all of the people getting funding are getting their request fully funded.

10. When and how much has tuition been raised in the past few years?

*Increases happen every year, see chart in folder to get #'s.

11. How many students apply for funding from DMVA every year for the past four years?

*Unknown – ANG office has not kept this number until this Spring.

12. How many of those requests have been funded?

*See Chart Below

13. Amount of funding requested by DMVA before OMB got to it?

*Amount unknown- DMVA says they do not keep official records of that sort of numbers.

14. Amount of funding appropriated?

*See Chart Below

Chart of Important information of soldiers served and money allocated and other stuff

	UA Waiver	Tuition Reimbursement	Notes	\$/credit	\$\$\$ that year	Shortfall expected	
SFY02	510	35		1	\$79	\$28,500.00	
SFY03	450	42		2	\$82	\$278,500.00	
SFY04	475	36			\$90	\$278,500.00	
SFY05	376	36		3	\$99	\$278,500.00	
SFY06	200	14		4	\$109	\$353,500.00	-\$9,688.00
SFY07	?	?	5, 6, 7, 8		\$120	\$378,500.00	-\$61,324.00

Notes

1 Funding requests exceeded funds by \$100,00.00 for Tuition Reimbursement

2 Funding requests exceeded funds by \$25,000.00 for Tuition Reimbursement

3 26 guard members denied due to lack of funding totaling 29,500.00 for Tuition Reimbursement

4 Numbers as of January 19, 2006

5 Expected increase of 10% in soldiers

6 Known increase of 7% tuition

7 Governor's requested and suggested amount

8 The increase in funding from this year to next is 7%, which does not account for the expected 10% growth in soldiers wanting education.

Tuition Rate History

Resident Undergraduate - 1981 to 2007 Academic Year

Year	Main Campuses			\$/Credit Extended Campuses					All Other Extended Sites
	\$/Credit	Consolidated Fee Credits	Consolidated Fee	ACC	PWSCC	KOC	KEC SC	KPC	
2006-2007									
Lower Divn.	\$120	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$103	\$105	\$120	\$120	\$120
Upper Divn.	\$135	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$135	\$135	\$135	\$135	\$135
2005-2006									
Lower Divn.	\$109	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$94	\$95	\$109	\$109	\$109
Upper Divn.	\$112	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$123	\$123	\$123	\$123	\$123
2004-2005									
Lower Divn.	\$99	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$85	\$86	\$99	\$99	\$99
Upper Divn.	\$112	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$112	\$112	\$112	\$112	\$112
2003-2004									
Lower Divn.	\$90	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$77	\$78	\$90	\$90	\$90
Upper Divn.	\$102	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$102	\$102	\$102	\$102	\$102
2002-2003									
Lower Divn.	\$82	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$70	\$71	\$82	\$82	\$82
Upper Divn.	\$93	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$93	\$93	\$93	\$93	\$93
2001-2002									
Lower Divn.	\$79	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$68	\$69	\$79	\$79	\$79
Upper Divn.	\$90	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90
2000-2001									
Lower Divn.	\$77	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$66	\$67	\$77	\$77	\$77
Upper Divn.	\$87	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$87	\$87	\$87	\$87	\$87
1999-2000									
Lower Divn.	\$75	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$64	\$65	\$75	\$75	\$75
Upper Divn.	\$84	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$84
1998-1999									
Lower Divn.	\$73	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$62	\$63	\$73	\$73	\$73
Upper Divn.	\$81	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$81	\$81	\$81	\$81	\$81

Main Campuses are UAA, UAF, and UAS. ACC was Anchorage Community College and annexed by UAA starting in 1986. PWSCC is the Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez. KOC is Kodiak College. KEC SC is the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses combined, and KPC is the Kenai Peninsula College.

Year	Main Campuses			\$/Credit Extended Campuses					All Other Extended Sites
	\$/Credit	Consolidated Fee Credits	Consolidated Fee	ACC	PWSCC	KOC	KEC SC	KPC	
1997-1998									
Lower Divn.	\$71	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$60	\$61	\$71	\$71	\$71
Upper Divn.	\$79	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
1996-1997									
Lower Divn.	\$70	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$57	\$70	\$70	\$70
Upper Divn.	\$77	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$77	\$77	\$77	\$77	\$77
1995-1996									
Lower Divn.	\$69	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$52	\$56	\$69	\$69	\$69
Upper Divn.	\$75	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
1994-1995	\$67	13	\$871	n/a	\$50	\$54	\$63	\$67	\$67
1993-1994	\$64	13	\$832	n/a	\$48	\$51	\$57	\$64	\$64
1992-1993	\$58	13	\$754	n/a	\$48	\$48	\$51	\$55	\$58
1991-1992	\$50	13	\$650	n/a	\$43	\$43	\$43	\$43	\$43
1990-1991	\$46	13	\$598	n/a	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39
1989-1990	\$42	13	\$546	n/a	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
1988-1989	\$38	13	\$494	n/a	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
1987-1988	\$40	12	\$480	\$35	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
1986-1987	\$40	12	\$480	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$30	\$30	\$30
1985-1986	\$35	12	\$420	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
1984-1985	\$30	12	\$360	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
1983-1984	\$30	12	\$260	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
1982-1983	\$25	12	\$300	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
1981-1982	\$20	8	\$160	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25

Main Campuses are UAA, UAF, and UAS. ACC was Anchorage Community College and annexed by UAA starting in 1986. PWSCC is the Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez. KOC is Kodiak College. KEC SC is the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses combined, and KPC is the Kenai Peninsula College.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DATA

SFY02

University of Alaska (UA) Tuition Waiver Program - Five hundred ten (510) Guard members attended UA classes statewide.

Tuition Reimbursement Program - These funds were used by 35 Guard members. The AK National Guard reported that requests made by Guard members for reimbursement under this program exceeded available funds by \$100,000

SFY03

UA Tuition Waiver Program - In SFY03 funding for the UAA Tuition Waiver Program was provided directly to DMVA rather than to DMVA from the Post Secondary Education Fund. These funds were fully utilized and made it possible for 450 Guard members to attend classes at UA.

Tuition Reimbursement Program - In SFY 2003 these funds were used by 42 guard and Naval Militia members. The AK National Guard Education Service Office reported that they received \$25,000 in additional requests that were denied due to a lack of funds.

SFY04

UA Tuition Waiver Program - In SFY04 these funds were fully utilized and made it possible for 475 guard members to attend the University. Guard members from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Ninilchik, Nulato, Hooper Bay and Nome utilized this program.

Tuition Reimbursement Program - These funds were used by 36 Guard and Naval Militia members.

SFY05

UA Tuition Waiver Program - In SFY05 376 guard members used the program to obtain their education. This decrease from SFY04 occurred because the University of Alaska (UA) increased their tuition fees. UA, at the Guard's request, absorbed \$36,000 in tuition costs which allowed an additional 34 guard members to attend classes.

Tuition Reimbursement Program - In SFY05, 36 Guard members fully utilized the program's \$28,500. Twenty-six (26) additional Guard members' requests (totaling \$29,500) were denied tuition reimbursement due to lack of funds.

SFY06

UA Tuition Waiver Program - The AK National Guard Education Services Office reports that as of Jan 19, 2006 200 Guard members have applied for assistance under this program.

Tuition Reimbursement Program – As of Jan 19, 2006 fourteen (14) Guard members have applied for and been approved for assistance under this program. The amount spent as of that date is \$12,835.00

Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs
 Educational Benefits
 Information Request as of January 20, 2006

Fiscal Year	Governor	Conference Committed	Actuals	Members Assisted		Note
				U of A Tuition Waiver Program	Tuition Reimbursement Program	
2002	\$ 128.5	\$ 28.5	\$ 16.5	510	35	
2003	301.0	278.5	278.0	450	42	1
2004	278.5	278.5	278.4	475	36	
2005	278.5	278.6	277.8	376	36	2, 3
2006	353.5	353.5	7.9	To date, 200 members have applied for assistance	To date, 14 members have applied and been approved for assistance	
2007	378.5	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	

NOTE

- 1 According to the Department's records, members put in additional requests of \$25,000 that were denied due to lack of funds.
- 2 At DMVA's request, U of A "absorbed" \$36.0 of tuition costs so that 34 members could attend summer session. Due to shortfall, 28 members were denied tuition reimbursement (totaling \$29.5).
- 3 Decrease in member numbers from FY04 to FY05 was the result of increased tuition credit costs (from \$90 to \$99 and then \$109 per credit hour).

Additional Information

- A Depending on the course level taken, current cost per credit hour for a resident is \$109 or \$112.
- B The Guard expects 10% growth per year in use of the program. This program is beneficial to the Guard as it allows members to promote / advance into officer and senior grade enlisted personnel positions.

Anticipating 440 members for FY06 (based on 200 through mid-year and 40 for summer classes), the estimated costs could be:

Tuition Waiver Program		
Members		440
Tuition credit cost	* \$	109
Average credit hours per member	*	7
Total	\$	305,720
		(\$249,900 / 376 / \$109)

Anticipating 36 members for FY08 (based on last two years), the costs could be:

Tuition Reimbursement Program		
Members		36
Tuition credit cost	* \$	109
Average credit hours per member	*	7
Total	\$	27,468
		(\$26,500 / 36 / \$109)

Estimated total cost for FY2006, if fully funded and with anticipated member enrollment:

UA Tuition Waiver Program	\$	305,720
Tuition Reimbursement Program		27,468
Subtotal	\$	333,188
FY 2006 Budget		353,500
FY06 Projected Shortfall	\$	19,488

FY 07 analysis:

INCREASED MEMBERS USING BENEFITS

Members		48	(10% INCREASE)
Tuition credit cost	* \$	120	
Average credit hours per member	*	7	
Total	\$	39,964	

BASE LEVEL FROM FY06 USING BENEFITS

Members		476
Tuition credit cost increase	* \$	11
Average credit hours per member	*	7
Total	\$	34,652

Projected costs for FY07: \$ 439,824 (A + B + C)

Agency requested budget request for FY07: 378,500

FY07 Projected Shortfall: \$ 61,324

Based on my review, if the legislature approves the \$4.50 increment for FY07, the department could still be short by \$27.8M to accommodate the increased number of members wishing to seek educational benefits through the program.

TO: Office of Representative Eric Croft
RE: House Bill 387

January 31, 2006

Dear Representative Croft:

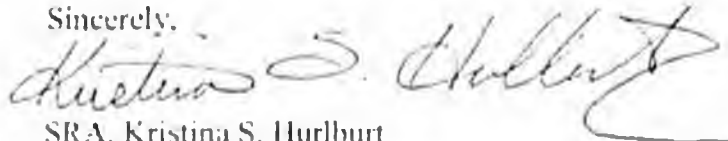
I am sending this letter to express my support for House Bill 387. I am a Senior Airman in the Alaska Air Guard and am also a student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Given the choice between Active Duty Military and Traditional Guard service, I decided to join the Guard so that I could stay in Alaska and attend school full-time. As a traditional Guardsman, I serve one weekend per month and three weeks in the summer and am therefore a civilian more days of the year than I am a Guardsman. Furthering my education with the goal of earning a bachelors degree and then continuing on to law school is an essential component of my civilian life and the tuition assistance I receive through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs has, thus far, helped with funding these goals.

Prior to this past fall semester I was enrolled in the Professional Piloting curriculum in the Aviation Technology program at UAA. This is one of the most expensive subjects that UAA offers, due to additional fees and the cost per hour for flight lessons. During 2003-2004, the cost of attending UAA as a piloting major was, for me personally, in excess of \$6000, above and beyond the tuition that was paid by the VA. Higher education is not cheap.

This summer I am being deployed overseas to serve my country, and will miss the first half of the coming fall semester at UAA. For this hardship, I am being paid roughly \$3000 per month. I would like to think that my life is worth more than that, but like thousands of military members in Alaska I am proud to serve, regardless of the cost. However, it is my belief that programs such as the tuition assistance program are small prices for the state to pay in reward to its military members that are so often put in harm's way. Furthermore, Guard members do not receive the health and dental benefits that Active Duty members do, adding to the personal cost to individuals and their families.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, it is a sad thing that many Guard members are denied this small benefit. Without state funding, the rate of members denied assistance is projected to increase drastically. As an active member of the Alaska Guard family, I fully support HB 387, and any future legislation that pays tribute to the personal and professional sacrifices of Alaska's military members.

Sincerely,



SRA. Kristina S. Hurlburt
AK Air National Guard
Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK

Residence Address:
1054 Evergreen St.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907.244.1678

Letter of Support for House Bill 387

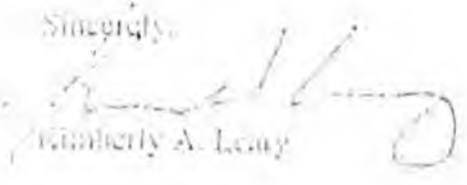
January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capital, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of the members and families of the Alaska National Guard in support of the House Bill 387: Tuition Waiver for National Guard Family. Working closely with the families of National Guardsmen through my position with the National Guard Family Programs, I can personally attest to the need for such worthy legislation. Often enough, Guard families are already struggling to make ends meet with the salaries paid in return for their selfless service to this State and our Nation. The high costs of education are usually too great for these families to consider for even one member of the family, let alone a spouse and dependents, who sometimes attend college together. This bill would add further incentive to those citizens interested in joining the National Guard, and would show support to the current members of the Alaska National Guard that we really do value their sacrifice and support their efforts in defending our State and Nation, in both the War on Terrorism and against the many potential disasters facing Alaska and her people. Please, I ask that you give your support fully to this bill and ensure it is passed quickly into state law.

Sincerely,


Kimberly A. Leary

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism; they are also ready at a moments notice when Mother Nature releases her fury on our state. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. What we pay our defenders is a pittance in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,

Simon Brown II

Simon Brown II,
1973 to Present Veteran and
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism. This could not be done with great accuracy without the support of our spouses and dependents. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. What we pay our soldiers is nothing in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,



Rodger A. Morrison,
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

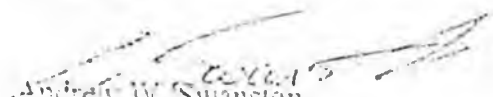
January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism; they are also ready at a moments notice when Mother Nature releases her fury on our state. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. What we pay our defenders is a pittance in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,


Andrew W. Swanston
Desert Storm and Somalia Veteran and
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism; they are also ready at a moments notice when Mother Nature releases her fury on our state. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. What we pay our defenders is a pittance in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,

Clinton K. Brown II, Veteran and
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

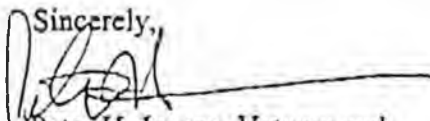
January 26, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism; they are also ready at a moments notice when Mother Nature releases her fury on our state. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. Providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed in law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Jensen, Veteran and
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 27, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair State Capitol, Room 432 Juneau,
Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." In George Orwell's words, Alaskan residents "sleep peaceably" because members of the Alaska National Guard "stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Alaska National Guard members sacrifice to protect the freedoms of Alaskan residents. Although there are countless incentives for these soldiers; their families who also sacrifice, are often left without acknowledgment.

Our state can provide a "partial" tuition waiver to ensure that the sacrifices of family members are not overlooked.

Show your gratitude by doing your part to ensure that HB387 is passed into law.

Sincerely,

Michelle Brown

Dependent of an Alaska National Guard Member



Alaska Broadcasters Association

"Membership Has Its Benefits"

An Alaskan Corporation

And
From
Fax
Council

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Neuman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members."

I have both personal and business ties to the Alaska National Guard. My son and daughter-in-law are both Guardsmen. The AK Broadcasters Association and myself are responsible for running the Guard recruitment ads on TV and Radio and have been doing so since 1996.

Until the recent deployments and tragic deaths in Iraq our Guardsmen have gone quietly about their business in service to our state. They perform rescues and missions of mercy, at Christmas they deliver toys to our bush communities, they help fight wildfires, they use weekend trainings to clean up abandoned vehicles, they were at our airports after September 11, 2001 providing security and peace of mind to citizens put on alert.

This bill will help so much to give back to the families who through their support of their citizen-soldiers have also served their state. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,

Darlene Simono
Executive Director

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the Alaska House Special Committee on Education
Chairman Rep. Mark Neuman
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Neuman and other Honorable Committee Members,

As a citizen of the great state of Alaska, I write you in support of HB 387, providing partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard Members. Our continual support of all members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents is critical for Homeland Security and our war on terrorism. We need to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the families of our soldiers, and this is a positive way to benefit our protectors and help guarantee the opportunity for future members of our National Guard.

Please support HB387 in your committee and help our legislators see that a Yes vote means that Alaska will always reward those individuals and families that make the ultimate sacrifice in the face of danger. Please help our Guardsmen and by providing college education assistance for their children and spouse

Sincerely,



Ric Schmidt
Nome, Alaska

Letter of Support for House Bill 387

January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capital, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

Consideration of this matter greatly pleases me. I am a proud member of our state's National Guard and have a collective military history of nearly fifteen years. I serve as a Recruiter and understand well the importance of our member's and families' educational welfare. The opportunity for our members to educate themselves is vital and the Guard has done a tremendous job of recognizing that as they have offered financial assistance to them for many years. These members, however, come with another very vital part of our organization; their families! These families are essential to our moral and welfare and to our existence. It is important to our Guardsmen that their families are offered opportunities to educate themselves. Please take every consideration into account upon commencing over this matter.

Sincerely,

SFC Russell E Overman

Letter of Support for HB 387

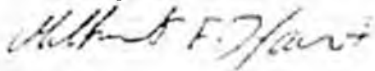
January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueenan, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." It is no secret that Guard members selflessly give of themselves to the State and to our Nation. We are the front line on the Global War On Terror. Our families are an integral part of our personal and national support mechanism. This bill would be of great assistance to our families and a much needed tool to continue their efforts of striving for higher education. That would be yet another front we beat terrorism at. Please continue to help improve the Alaskan and American quality of life, by supporting HB 387 as our Citizen Soldiers bring the fight to the enemy.

Sincerely,



Mel Hawi
Current Alaska National Guard Member

January 30, 2006
Letter of Support for HB 387

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and dependents of the Alaska National Guard in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." As the spouse of a Guardsman and a student at UAA it would really help us make ends meet to have such assistance with my tuition. Your support is appreciated and needed.

Sincerely,



Janet Hawi
Current Alaska National Guard Dependent

Letter of Support for HB 387

January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing as the spouse of a National Guard soldier asking that you support HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." The Alaska National Guard has the distinction of being the only National Guard to draw its roots from indigenous North Americans, The Eskimo Scouts. The Scouts have played vital role in the defense of our state and nation from the days of the Territorial Guard to now the Alaska National Guard.

The spouse's and children of our Guardsmen constantly deal with the possibility that their husband, wife, father or mother will be activated, mobilized or deployed. They can be mobilized to fight fire in the Mat-Su or deployed to fight terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan; they go, willingly and boldly to protect what we hold dear. Too often those of us who are behind holding the home and community together are forgotten for our sacrifice. Our soldiers are the hero's but we are the ones who sacrifice and give them the ability to wage war or save lives knowing that when they get home, all will be well. We spend millions of dollars on programs and entitlements for corporations and companies who are in need of nothing, what would it hurt to spend a few dollars on the education of a soldier's child? Who would it benefit? Why would you not support something so noble, and so just? Let Alaska once again be the birthplace of excellence, be the first National Guard to provide "tuition assistance" to every member of the Alaska National Guard, soldiers and family members alike. I expect to see your support of HB387, do your part and make this bill a reality.

Sincerely,

Deanra K. Brown, Spouse of an
Alaska National Guard Soldier

Letter of Support for HB 387

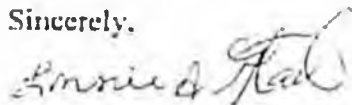
January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members.". What we pay our defenders is a pittance in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,



Lonnie A. Staib, Veteran and
Current Alaska National Guard Member

Letter of Support for HB 387

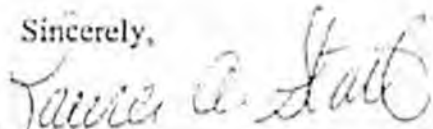
January 30, 2006

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Education
Representative Mark Nueman, Chair
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of myself and members of the Alaska National Guard and their dependents in support of HB 387, "An act providing for a partial tuition waiver for families of National Guard members." Members of the Alaska National Guard are the first line of defense in the ever growing Global War on Terrorism; they are also ready at a moments notice when Mother Nature releases her fury on our state. There are numerous recruiting and retention incentives available to the Soldier and Airman, but we so very often overlook the sacrifices of their families. What we pay our defenders is a pittance in comparison to their responsibility for our safety; providing family members with a "partial" tuition waiver is the least that our state and communities can offer for that sacrifice. I ask you to do your part and ensure that HB387 is swiftly passed into law and our Guardsmen are given the assistance to provide a college education for their children and spouse.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Staib

Spouse of Army National Guard Member

See later

VFW Post 10041
P.O. Box 301
Bethel, Alaska 99559

March 22, 2006

Representative Eric Croft
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Croft:

Thank you for your letter dated March 14, 2006 explaining House Bill 387 – Tuition Waiver for National Guard Dependents.

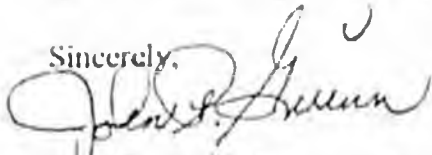
On behalf of our Post Commander, Henry Hunter, and at the request of our members, I am writing on behalf of VFW Post 10041 giving our full support for HB 387. At our VFW Meeting held last night, March 21, we voted unanimously for this support.

In addition, we thank you and co-sponsor Bill Thomas for introducing this important bill. The majority of the members in our Post have served in such places as Korea and Viet Nam, and we fully understand the sacrifices and support that family members and dependents went through while we served our great country. We have many of our National Guard members already fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many more to be deployed soon. You are right, we can never repay the debt we owe, but we can, and will, provide support because they deserve it.

Providing a fifty percent tuition waiver for dependents of active Alaska National Guard members and providing free hunting and fishing licenses to members is a small price to pay for their service in fighting for freedom. HB 387 is a nice way of saying "Thank You. We understand what you are going through. We support you."

You have VFW Post 10041's complete support for HB 387, and you can rest assured we will be contacting our own Congressional delegation and ask for their support also.

Sincerely,



John P. Guinn, Quartermaster
VFW Post 10041

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Mary Kapsner
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Representative Don Young

HB

390

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 390(CRA)
(H) Publish Date: 4/5/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
Title: Property Assessment Appeal Fee RDU: Community Assist & Ec Dev (405)
Component: Community Advocacy
Sponsor: Stoltze
Requester: Community & Regional Affairs Component No: 2703

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation limits the amount a municipality may charge individuals for filing an appeal on an assessment to \$10.00, regardless of the actual cost to the municipality. Currently, three municipalities charge a fee in excess of \$10.00. If the assessment is adjusted, the hearing fee is refunded to the individual. This legislation does not impact the operations of the division, however, there may be an impact to local municipalities that the division has no information to document.

Prepared by: Mike Black, Director
Division: Community Advocacy
Approved by: William C. Noll, Commissioner
Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Phone: 907 269 4535
Date/Time: 4/3/06 2:27 PM
Date: 4/3/2006

passed 6-4

AS amended

1

CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HB 390 (CRA)

BY REPRESENTATIVE MEYER

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Page 1, line 5-8

Delete all material

Page 1, line 5

Insert:

(f) A municipality may not charge more than the following fees for appealing an assessment of residential real property to the board of equalization under this section:

(i) \$25 as a fee for property assessed up to \$99,000-

99,999

(ii) \$50 as a fee for property assessed up to \$100,000 to \$499,999

(iii) \$100 as a fee for property assessed up to \$500,000 to \$1,999,999

and

(iv) \$200 as a fee for property assessed over \$2,000,000

This subsection does not apply to a municipality with a population under 30,000.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 390(CRA)
(H) Publish Date: 4/5/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
Title: Property Assessment Appeal Fee RDU: Community Assist & Ec Dev (405)
Component: Community Advocacy
Sponsor: Stoltze
Requester: Community & Regional Affairs Component No: 2703

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 00

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation limits the amount a municipality may charge individuals for filing an appeal on an assessment to \$10.00, regardless of the actual cost to the municipality. Currently, three municipalities charge a fee in excess of \$10.00. If the assessment is adjusted, the hearing fee is refunded to the individual. This legislation does not impact the operations of the division, however, there may be an impact to local municipalities that the division has no information to document.

Prepared by: Mike Black, Director
Division: Community Advocacy
Approved by: William C. Noll, Commissioner
Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Phone: 907 269 4535
Date/Time: 4/3/06 2 27 PM
Date: 4/3/2006

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Vice Chair:
House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4958
Fax: (907) 465-4928

Interim:
PO Box 464
Chugiak, AK 99567

BILL STOLTZE

State Representative

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

House Bill 390 (CRA)

Property Assessment Appeal Fee

"An Act limiting the amount that a municipality may charge for an appeal of a residential real property tax assessment to the municipality's board of equalization."

Often time homeowners feel the value of their home has been wrongly assessed. In order to challenge that assessment an appeal must be filed with their municipality's board of equalization. Currently, municipalities charge a variety of fees associated with an assessment appeal.

HB 390 will cap the amount a municipality can charge for a homeowner to appeal the assessment on their home to \$10 if that municipality has a population greater than 30,000.

This legislation is an attempt to allow homeowners due process in having their home assessed by their local government.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

Local property values keep on rising

10 PERCENT JUMP: City begins mailing its 2006 appraisal notices.

PETER PORCO
Anchorage Daily News

Staff

The **value** of all private and business **property** in the city jumped 10 percent in the past year, according to the city's **Property Appraisal Division**, which began mailing its 2006 appraisal notices Friday. The notices function as a heads-up to home and **property** owners, because **property** taxes are based partly on appraised **value**. Taxes generally follow **values** up. Officials, however, say there's no direct link between the change in **value** and the tax rate, which will be set this spring by the Anchorage Assembly.

The increase in assessed **value** varies greatly from **property** to **property** across the city. Some **properties** have fallen in appraised **value**, but the great mass of the city's 93,800 residential and commercial parcels have gained **value**, said municipal assessor Marty McGee.

The total taxable valuation of real **property** in the city has risen this year to \$23.9 billion, from \$21.7 billion the year before.

Some **properties** have appreciated by 20 percent or more -- including one owned by an assemblyman -- but most increases are in the mid-range of 10 percent to 11 percent, McGee said.

Assemblyman Kenneth Stout, who was one of five Assembly members to hear McGee and other officials discuss the latest evaluations at a work session Friday, learned that his own home in East Anchorage has risen in appraised **value** by 18 percent, to nearly \$360,000.

"I'm not real happy with it, of course," Stout said. "It went up considerably last year, so I thought it would level off."

Stout accepted McGee's explanation that higher-quality homes generally saw the largest increases in **value**.

"I can't complain too loudly," he said. "We have a little complex there that has just a few houses in it, and the houses are all fairly good size and well kept."

The division sets a dollar figure for a **property** -- what it considers the fair market **value** -- based on actual sales of similar **properties**, according to McGee.

Appraisers track the sale price of roughly one-third of the city's **properties** sold in a given period, he said. Based on price and characteristics of the **property** sold, they construct a model to predict the **values** of similar **properties**.

"We know what goes on in the marketplace," McGee said. The city believes its appraisals are at 98 percent of the actual market **value**, he added.

Location plays a role in **property values** but not a major one, he said. Some areas of the city are

responding to the market as a whole. The South Addition, for example -- the neighborhood south of the Park Strip -- is booming because lots of people want to live near downtown, McGee said.

"There's a lot going on there, a lot of high-**value** sales, and we reflect that in our valuation," he said.

"The predominant thing going on now," he said, "is people doing remodeling and additions. People are upgrading all over the city. We're more affluent, interest rates are low, they can refinance and add **value** to their houses."

People who live in older, smaller homes that are not changing complain that their **properties** should not be rising on a par with the other homes, according to McGee.

His answer to them is that there's a strong market for homes just like theirs because buyers want to take those smaller homes and remodel them.

Anchorage has relatively few homogeneous neighborhoods, which are likely to be subdivisions built in recent years. Its more typical neighborhood profile is a hodge-podge of housing -- the older homes side by side with larger, newer houses and maybe fixer-uppers on the other side of the street.

"Anchorage has not developed systematically," McGee said. That's why comparing type of **property** rather than relying on location "does a good job in predicting individual **property values**" based on the **property** description.

The much-discussed housing bubble that appears to be leveling off Outside is not much in play in Anchorage, according to McGee. The speculation that leads to "hyper **value**" elsewhere does not hold true here, he said. Anchorage is still riding a general economic rise and few better investments exist here than a house.

"What we're seeing now and expect to see in the next year is a slowdown in the number of sales but not in price."

Stout thought otherwise.

"My personal assessment is that this market will (soon) flatten out," Stout said.

Property owners have 30 days from the date of the notice to appeal their evaluation. Both the evaluation and appeal forms are available on the city's Web site (www.muni.org).

The city does change appraisals when it learns something about a **property** it did not know before, McGee said.

Meanwhile, the city is again offering exemptions for up to \$20,000 of assessed **value** to qualifying taxpayers -- chiefly, to those who live in their own homes.

Those who applied last year do not have to reapply, the city said.

New homeowners will find information and tax exemption forms on the Web site.

Daily News reporter Peter Porco can be reached at pporco@adn.com or 257-4982.

Ballooning property values put crunch on seniors in the Valley

TAXES: Officials say they are starting to investigate additional exemption options.

Mat-Su focus

RINDI WHITE

Anchorage Daily News

Staff

Property values are on the rise in the Valley, and some members of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly are looking for ways to help seniors on fixed incomes who, despite tax exemptions, face growing tax bills. Two Valley seniors in the past two months have asked the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly to reduce their **property** taxes, saying their assessments have increased beyond what they can afford.

It wasn't easy to ask the Assembly to forgive her nearly \$1,240 tax bill, said Wasilla resident Eleanor Riendl, who on Jan. 4 asked for an extreme hardship exemption.

"When I found out this was an option, I really had to think about it," Riendl said. "I don't ask for help."

Riendl has been out of work since her state job as a Palmer Superior Court bailiff, shepherding jurors during trials, was reduced from full time to a few hours a week, she said.

She's looking for work but is finding her age, which she declined to state, an impediment to re-entering the job market. Riendl said she's hoping for something more stimulating than a job as a department-store greeter. She's had a few interviews for office positions, but nothing has come through yet. Riendl said she's confident she'll be back on her feet but hoped for an exemption to help her until she does.

By state mandate, senior citizens and disabled veterans are exempt from paying taxes on the first \$150,000 of the assessed **value** of their primary home. State law also provides other options for seniors and disabled veterans -- a hardship exemption, an extreme hardship exemption and a blanket reduction in assessments for all **property** owners. Cities or municipalities can exercise the three options at their discretion, according to state assessor Steve Van Sant. Or they can, like Kenai, go a step further and eliminate taxes on **property** owned by seniors altogether, he said.

Van Sant said five municipalities have turned to blanket exemptions in an effort to make **property** taxes more fair, and the Municipality of Anchorage is considering its own blanket exemption program. Van Sant said municipalities around the state have granted hardship and extreme hardship exemptions on a case-by-case basis to address each **property** owner's request. An extreme hardship exemption forgives all **property** taxes owed after the first \$150,000 of assessed **property value**. A hardship exemption caps the amount of **property** tax due at 2 percent of the applicant's income.

Riendl said she completed paperwork verifying her income, and borough assessor Allen Black verified the information before sending it to the Assembly. An extreme-hardship exemption request is not a well-publicized option, and it's something the Assembly has never been asked to consider.

before, borough finance director Tammy Clayton said. The Assembly in December dealt with its first hardship exemption request in borough history.

It came from Grouse Ridge **property** owner Kendall Gardner, and the Assembly unanimously denied his request to pay 2 percent of his owed tax bill. Gardner listed his income as exceeding \$60,000. His **property** is valued at \$277,900, and he would pay taxes on about \$127,900 of that, or about \$1,900.

Riendl's plea for assistance was also denied, by a 3-2 vote, but the issue is something borough leaders are continuing to discuss. Riendl's Assembly representative, Mary Kvalheim, was traveling Outside at the time of the vote. She said she was surprised Riendl's request was denied and followed up the decision with calls to borough administrators, asking that they work on finding options for seniors whose **property values** have risen above levels they can afford to pay.

"I feel very strongly that seniors are a gift to our community," Kvalheim said.

Kvalheim isn't the only Assembly member concerned that growth in the Valley may be leaving seniors behind. Borough Mayor Tim Anderson said Riendl's case opened his eyes to the possibility that the \$150,000 exemption for some seniors may soon not be enough to release them from tax obligations.

For the first time, in 2005, the average **property value** in Mat-Su Borough rose above \$150,000. Clayton said the average assessed **value** of a home is nearly \$160,000, up nearly \$20,000 from last year.

"As our assessments **value** continues to grow, unfortunately, their incomes don't generally increase at the same level," Anderson said. "We could see real problems for people with fixed incomes."

Black said he hears plenty of complaints after assessments are mailed out each March -- that's just par for the course. Some of the appeals he deals with each year come from seniors, but as many come from others who believe his office erred when estimating their **property value**.

Appealing the assessment, Riendl said, was her first response. She's appealed her assessment the last few years and said the borough assessment office has in the past reduced the **value** of her home and **property** by a few hundred dollars -- an amount she's been able to pay. This year, that didn't happen.

Riendl's home needs repair. By itself, it's worth less than \$20,000. But her **property** is conducive to development. One side borders Bogard Road, a busy and increasingly commercial thoroughfare.

"It's very desirable land," Black said. "Her assessment went up with the 2004 assessment year."

Leapt is more like it. Riendl's assessment went up \$20,800 in 2003 and another \$62,100 in 2004. She qualifies for the senior-citizen tax exemption on the first \$150,000 in assessed **value**, but her nearly \$1,240 tax bill constitutes a large chunk of her income, which comes from Social Security checks alone.

The average Mat-Su **property** owner in 2004 paid about \$2,730 in **property** taxes. Boroughwide, **property** owners pay 11.8 mills, plus about 0.38 mills for local road and fire service area funds. In the cities, the service area funds are replaced by a citywide mill levy: 3 mills in Palmer, 3 mills in Houston and 0.4 of 1 mill in Wasilla.

One option for hard-pressed seniors may be a program used in other states that places a lien on the **property**, allowing seniors to defer tax payments until their land is sold or the **property** owner dies and the taxes are paid by the deceased's estate. Mat-Su Borough assistant manager Marian Romano said borough staff members are evaluating programs elsewhere but that the process is in its early stages.

"We don't want to necessarily reduce the borough's ability to provide services," Romano said. "But we do want to be fair to the residents of our community. We're looking to see what's out there."

Van Sant said that to expand **property** tax exemptions may be a state-level task that requires

action by the Legislature. He said that the Legislature has discussed deferral programs before, but some aspects seemed problematic. When the matter was discussed in the 1980s, he said, seniors weighed in, saying they'd be reluctant to have a lien placed on their **property** just to avoid paying taxes. And legislators were reluctant to approve a program that could saddle municipalities with unwanted residential **property**.

Depending on how long someone lives, the taxes owed on a **property** could amount to more than the **property** is actually worth, leading the municipality to take a loss or hold on to the **property** for future sale. And, at a time when many municipalities are clamoring for the return of revenue sharing and of funds to offset the state-mandated exemptions, adding a new exemption may prove difficult.

"Anytime they expand those exemptions, they're asking other taxpayers to pay more also," Van Sant said.

Daily News reporter Rindi White can be reached at 1-907-352-6709 or at white@adn.com.

Value of land continues to rise

TAXES: An exemption, if approved in April, could shave off 10 percent.

ANNE AURAND
Anchorage Daily News

Staff

Property values are up all over town, but a proposed **property tax** exemption could save many homeowners from stiff tax bill increases this year. The taxable **value** of homes in Anchorage rose an average of 12.8 percent for 2005, according to Assessor Marty McGee, who discussed **property values** with the Assembly on Friday.

Single-family homes averaged \$241,800 for 2005, an 11 percent change from last year.

Of the residential areas in the Anchorage Bowl, downtown and Mountain View saw the biggest jumps in assessed **values**: an average of 21.5 percent and 17.6 percent respectively.

Historically, these areas have been undervalued, said McGee, so the city focused on getting as much information as possible about sales prices in the area. Assessed **values** are based largely on comparable **property sales**.

Also, inspections have been inadequate over the past decade, said McGee. Fewer appeals, resulting from an overhaul of the appeals process, coupled with additional staff opened up more time for inspecting **properties** and updating valuations, he said.

A proposed **property tax** exemption would shave off 10 percent of the assessed **value**, up to \$20,000, of owner-occupied homes. That could actually lower many people's taxes, said Mayor Mark Begich. The exemption is subject to voter approval in April.

Actual tax bills will be determined after city finance officials calculate the mill rate necessary to support the school and city budgets passed by the Assembly last fall.

Begich passed out a list of Assembly members' **property values** at their meeting Friday. Assemblyman Ken Stout, whose home on 34th Avenue is now worth \$303,600, said with a smile: "I want to know why mine went up more than the mayor's!"

Stout's **property value** rose 19 percent. Begich's home on Colgate Drive, worth \$315,300, went up 10 percent this year but increased 33 percent last year.

"Yours is a very nice home. I'll buy it for this," Begich said, pointing to Stout's assessed **value** and returning the smile.

Said downtown Assemblyman Allan Tesche: "Mr. Mayor, while you're in the mood to buy ..."
Tesche's home on G Street is worth \$409,100, 15 percent more than it was assessed at last year.

South Anchorage Assemblywoman Janice Shamberg's home on McDonell Road jumped only 10 percent to \$289,600.

"I'm coming in the slum category," she joked.

When the assessor includes the **value** of new homes built last year, the overall assessed **value** of the city's residential **properties** is \$15.2 billion, a 14 percent jump from 2004 **values**.

Commercial **property values**, including new construction, total \$6.5 billion for 2005, a 16 percent increase from 2004.

Market **values** in Anchorage, over the past four or five years, have caught up with prices in the Lower 48, said Niel Thomas, real estate agent at Coldwell Banker Fortune.

One reason is that more people are moving here from Outside, creating a demand for homes that surpasses the rate of new construction.

The cost of materials has also gone up, Thomas said, which makes new buildings more expensive. That causes other homes, which may be a couple of years old, to increase in price too, he said.

"It's good news for the people who were fortunate enough to buy at the right time," he said. "What we really have to face is how many are going to find it hard to find anything they can afford."

Daily News reporter Anne Aurand can be reached at aurand@adn.com or 257-4591.

HB

394

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 394(L&C)
(H) Publish Date: 2/24/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
Title: Insurance Policies in Foreign Languages RDU: Insurance (116)
Component: Insurance Operations
Sponsor: Meyer
Requestor: Labor & Commerce Component No.: 354

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation allows insurance policies to be filed, approved and delivered in languages other than English if an official English language version is also provided. It does not impact the operations of the division.

Prepared by: Linda S. Hall, Director
Division: Insurance
Approver by: William C. Noll, Commissioner
Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone: 907 269 7900
Date/Time: 2/21/06 5:58 PM
Date: 2/21/2006



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Representative Kevin Meyer

Sponsor: Representative Meyer
Current Version: Blank CS HB 394 24-LS; 506A
Contact: Mike Pawlowski 465-2812
Date: February 21, 2006

Committee Substitute Comparison Sheet for House Bill 394

Short Title:

"Insurance Policies in Foreign Languages."

Summary:

- CSHB 394 allows the Director of the Division of Insurance to approve a policy form filed in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, allows an insurance company to provide policy forms and associated materials in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, prohibits an insurance company from misrepresenting information in another language and defines "associated material."

Changes in blank CSHB 394:

- 1.) General changes:
 - a. Changed "insurance policy or form" to "insurance policy form" which is a term of art.
 - b. Changed "foreign language" to "non-English" for clarity.
- 2.) To section 1 (a):
 - a. Deleted "associated materials" from (a) because the Division of Insurance does not need to review "associated materials."
 - b. Deleted "An insurer may file and" to remove the reference to an insurance company because they are already allowed to file.
- 3.) To section 1 (b):
 - a. Added disclosures (1) & (2) from (a) since "associated materials" is included in (b) and not in (a).
- 4.) To section 1 (c):
 - a. Removed the reference to AS 21.90.020 and made misrepresentation a blanket prohibition so that it falls under the general provisions of AS 21.90.020 and other relevant statutes.
- 5.) New section 1 (d):
 - a. Added a definition of "associated material."

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 394

“An Act relating to approval of insurance policy forms or associated materials in foreign languages and providing that the English version of policy forms or associated materials is the official version if certain conditions are met.”

Currently there is no law stating how insurance policies and associated materials provided in foreign languages would be interpreted – in English or in the foreign language. Without a clear law, insurers are reluctant to provide information and conduct business in foreign tongues. With a clear foreign language law, insurers will be able to confidently provide foreign language speakers with information regarding essential insurance products. HB 394 provides that insurance policies and associated materials be construed in English version so long as an English version was provided with the foreign language materials and proper disclosure is made.

This law benefits both consumers and the insurance business. According to the last census, more than 80,000 Alaskans speak a language other than English at home. Our increasingly diverse population needs proper information to secure their personal and business insurance needs. HB 394 will allow foreign language speaking consumers to secure information so they can better understand and thus can make better insurance decisions. For the insurance industry, HB 394 is likely to lead to increased penetration in emerging markets.

HB 394 is supported by the Division of Insurance and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 2006
TO: Representative Kevin Meyer
FROM: Mike Pawlowski
RE: Sectional Analysis for HB 394
(Version No. 24 - LS1506A)

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds a new section to AS 21.42 allowing an insurer to file and the director to approve an insurance policy in a language other than English with certain conditions and specifies penalties for knowingly misrepresenting information in a translation.

Table 3a. Alaska -- Ability to Speak English by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2000

(Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/docs/s3.pdf>)

Language spoken at home	Total	Speak English "very well"		Speak English "well"		Speak English "not well"		Speak English "not at all"	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 5 years and over	579,740	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	496,980	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Speak language other than English	82,755	51,915	62.7	19,975	24.1	9,325	11.3	1,540	1.9
Spanish or Spanish Creole	16,670	10,875	65.2	3,245	19.5	2,090	12.5	460	2.8
Other Indo-European languages	12,809	9,170	71.6	2,212	17.3	1,236	9.6	191	1.5
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	2,195	1,640	74.7	280	12.8	275	12.5	0	0.0
French Creole	64	50	78.1	4	6.3	10	15.6	0	0.0
Italian	515	385	74.8	115	22.3	15	2.9	0	0.0
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	185	160	86.5	25	13.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
German	3,575	2,915	81.5	420	11.8	230	6.4	10	0.3
Yiddish	45	30	66.7	0	0.0	15	33.3	0	0.0
Other West Germanic languages	273	265	97.1	4	1.5	4	1.5	0	0.0
Scandinavian languages	699	570	81.6	75	10.7	50	7.2	4	0.6
Greek	124	105	84.7	4	3.2	15	12.1	0	0.0
Russian	2,950	1,750	59.3	705	23.9	360	12.2	135	4.6
Polish	495	270	54.6	200	40.4	15	3.0	10	2.0
Serbo-Croatian	260	170	65.4	50	19.2	40	15.4	0	0.0
Other Slavic languages	500	215	43.0	115	23.0	150	30.0	20	4.0
Armenian	30	20	66.7	10	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Persian	90	80	88.9	10	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gujarathi	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hindi	78	60	76.9	10	12.8	4	5.1	4	5.1
Urdu	104	90	86.5	10	9.6	4	3.9	0	0.0
Other Indic languages	153	60	39.2	85	55.6	4	2.6	4	2.6
Other Indo-European languages	474	335	70.7	90	19.0	45	9.5	4	0.8
Asian and Pacific Island languages	22,185	10,525	47.4	7,310	33.0	3,740	16.6	610	2.7
Chinese	1,290	630	48.8	470	36.4	165	12.8	25	1.9
Japanese	1,390	905	65.1	375	27.0	110	7.9	0	0.0
Korean	4,370	1,575	36.0	1,375	31.5	1,110	25.4	310	7.1
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	125	50	40.0	30	24.0	45	36.0	0	0.0
Miao, Hmong	455	100	22.0	180	39.6	150	33.0	25	5.5
Thai	745	365	49.0	185	24.8	180	24.2	15	2.0
Laotian	1,135	450	39.7	305	26.9	290	25.6	90	7.9
Vietnamese	755	295	39.1	280	37.1	180	23.8	0	0.0
Other Asian languages	395	210	53.2	90	22.8	65	16.5	30	7.6
Tagalog	8,935	4,325	48.4	3,355	37.6	1,165	13.0	90	1.0
Other Pacific Island languages	2,590	1,620	62.6	665	25.7	280	10.8	25	1.0
Other languages	31,058	21,340	68.7	7,195	23.2	2,233	7.2	290	0.9
Navajo	45	45	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Native North American languages	30,120	20,615	68.4	7,040	23.4	2,175	7.2	290	1.0
Hungarian	80	55	68.8	15	18.8	10	12.5	0	0.0
Arabic	190	140	73.7	25	13.2	25	13.2	0	0.0
Hebrew	220	160	72.7	45	20.5	15	6.8	0	0.0
African languages	224	175	78.1	45	20.1	4	1.8	0	0.0
Other and unspecified languages	179	150	83.8	25	14.0	4	2.2	0	0.0

(X) Not applicable



DIVISION OF INSURANCE

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

March 2, 2006

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Meyer:

As I told the House Finance Committee staff earlier this week, I regret that I am unable to attend Thursday's hearing regarding HB 394 because I will be traveling.

Before I left, however, I wanted express to you the Division of Insurance's support for the bill as it was amended in the Labor and Commerce Committee. The bill protects consumers whose first language is not English, by allowing insurance companies to provide them with important information in their native language, if they make the decision to do so.

We appreciate your sponsorship of this bill. I will be out of town through next week, but can be reached at (907) 723-5684 if you or any committee member has any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffery D. Troutt
Deputy Director

JDT/go4864
030206a
cc: Linda S. Hall, Director

HB

394

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT APR 22 2006 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 4/5/06

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 22 April 2006

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 394(L&C) am

HB 394 INSURANCE POLICIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

"An Act relating to allowing insurance policy forms to be filed and approved in languages other than English if an official English language version is also filed, and authorizing use of insurance policy forms and associated materials in languages other than English."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

CS Senate Bill: <input type="checkbox"/> Same Title <input type="checkbox"/> New Title SCS House Bill: <input type="checkbox"/> Same Title <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Title Change <input type="checkbox"/> Now Title w/ SCR # _____
--

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Ind.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Ind.	Zero	FN#
DCCED	2/21/06			✓	#1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
APR 22 2006
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF ALASKA
 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 394(L&C)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/24/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept Affected: Commerce
 Title: Insurance Policies in Foreign Languages RDU: Insurance (116)
 Component: Insurance Operations
 Sponsor: Meyer
 Requester: Labor & Commerce Component No.: 354

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

This legislation allows insurance policies to be filed, approved and delivered in languages other than English if an official English language version is also provided. It does not impact the operations of the division.

Prepared by: Linda S. Hall, Director Phone: 907 269 7900
 Division: Insurance Date/Time: 2/21/06 5:58 PM
 Approved by: William C. Hall, Commissioner Date: 2/21/2006
 Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 394

"An Act relating to approval of insurance policy forms or associated materials in foreign languages and providing that the English version of policy forms or associated materials is the official version if certain conditions are met."

Currently there is no law stating how insurance policies and associated materials provided in foreign languages would be interpreted – in English or in the foreign language. Without a clear law, insurers are reluctant to provide information and conduct business in foreign tongues. With a clear foreign language law, insurers will be able to confidently provide foreign language speakers with information regarding essential insurance products. HB 394 provides that insurance policies and associated materials be construed in English version so long as an English version was provided with the foreign language materials and proper disclosure is made.

This law benefits both consumers and the insurance business. According to the last census, more than 80,000 Alaskans speak a language other than English at home. Our increasingly diverse population needs proper information to secure their personal and business insurance needs. HB 394 will allow foreign language speaking consumers to secure information so they can better understand and thus can make better insurance decisions. For the insurance industry, HB 394 is likely to lead to increased penetration in emerging markets.

HB 394 is supported by the Division of Insurance and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 2006
TO: Representative Kevin Meyer
FROM: Mike Pawlowski
RE: Sectional Analysis for HB 394
(Version No. 24 - LS1506A)

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds a new section to AS 21.42 allowing an insurer to file and the director to approve an insurance policy in a language other than English with certain conditions and specifies penalties for knowingly misrepresenting information in a translation.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Representative Kevin Meyer

Sponsor: Representative Meyer
Current Version: CS HB 394 (L&C) 24-LS1506\Y.A
Contact: Mike Pawlowski 465-2812
Date: March 15, 2006

Committee Substitute Comparison Sheet for House Bill 394

Short Title:

"Insurance Policies in Foreign Languages."

Summary:

- CSHB 394 (L&C) allows the Director of the Division of Insurance to approve a policy form filed in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, allows an insurance company to provide policy forms and associated materials in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, prohibits an insurance company from misrepresenting information in another language and defines "associated material."

Changes in CSHB 394 (L&C) Am.:

- Deleted "knowingly" on page 2 line 6.
- Inserted definition of "misrepresent information" taken from AS 21.36.030.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Kevin Meyer

Sponsor: Representative Meyer
Current Version: Blank CS HB 394 24-LS1506VA
Contact: Mike Pawlowski 465-2812
Date: February 21, 2006

Committee Substitute Comparison Sheet for House Bill 394

Short Title:

"Insurance Policies in Foreign Languages."

Summary:

- CSHB 394 allows the Director of the Division of Insurance to approve a policy form filed in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, allows an insurance company to provide policy forms and associated materials in another language if an English version is provided and made the official version, prohibits an insurance company from misrepresenting information in another language and defines "associated material."

Changes in blank CS HB 394:

- 1.) General changes:
 - a. Changed "insurance policy or form" to "insurance policy form" which is a term of art.
 - b. Changed "foreign language" to "non-English" for clarity.
- 2.) To section 1 (a):
 - a. Deleted "associated materials" from (a) because the Division of Insurance does not need to review "associated materials."
 - b. Deleted "An insurer may file and" to remove the reference to an insurance company because they are already allowed to file.
- 3.) To section 1 (b):
 - a. Added disclosures (1) & (2) from (a) since "associated materials" is included in (b) and not in (a).
- 4.) To section 1 (c):
 - a. Removed the reference to AS 21.90.020 and made misrepresentation a blanket prohibition so that it falls under the general provisions of AS 21.90.020 and other relevant statutes.
- 5.) New section 1 (d):
 - a. Added a definition of "associated material."

Table 3a. Alaska -- Ability to Speak English by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2000

[Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/s13.pdf>

Language spoken at home	Total Number	Speak English "very well"		Speak English "well"		Speak English "not well"		Speak English "not at all"	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 5 years and over	579,740	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	496,980	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Speak language other than English	82,755	51,915	62.7	19,975	24.1	9,325	11.3	1,540	1.9
Spanish or Spanish Creole	16,670	10,875	65.2	3,245	19.5	2,090	12.5	460	2.8
Other Indo-European languages	12,809	9,170	71.6	2,212	17.3	1,236	9.6	191	1.5
French (incl. F. 10is, Cajun)	2,195	1,640	74.7	280	12.8	275	12.5	0	0.0
French Creole	64	50	78.1	4	6.3	10	15.6	0	0.0
Italian	515	385	74.8	115	22.3	15	2.9	0	0.0
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	185	160	86.5	25	13.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
German	3,575	2,915	81.5	420	11.8	230	6.4	10	0.3
Yiddish	45	30	66.7	0	0.0	15	33.3	0	0.0
Other West Germanic languages	273	265	97.1	4	1.5	4	1.5	0	0.0
Scandinavian languages	699	570	81.6	75	10.7	50	7.2	4	0.6
Greek	124	105	84.7	4	3.2	15	12.1	0	0.0
Russian	2,950	1,750	59.3	705	23.9	360	12.2	135	4.6
Polish	495	270	54.6	200	40.4	15	3.0	10	2.0
Serbo-Croatian	260	170	65.4	50	19.2	40	15.4	0	0.0
Other Slavic languages	500	215	43.0	115	23.0	150	30.0	20	4.0
Armenian	30	20	66.7	10	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Persian	90	80	88.9	10	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gujarathi	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hindi	78	60	76.9	10	12.8	4	5.1	4	5.1
Urdu	104	90	86.5	10	9.6	4	3.9	0	0.0
Other Indic languages	153	60	39.2	85	55.6	4	2.6	4	2.6
Other Indo-European languages	474	335	70.7	90	19.0	45	9.5	4	0.8
Asian and Pacific Island languages	22,185	10,525	47.4	7,310	33.0	3,740	16.6	610	2.7
Chinese	1,290	630	48.8	470	36.4	165	12.8	25	1.9
Japanese	1,390	905	65.1	375	27.0	110	7.9	0	0.0
Korean	4,370	1,575	36.0	1,375	31.5	1,110	25.4	310	7.1
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	125	50	40.0	30	24.0	45	36.0	0	0.0
Miao, Hmong	455	100	22.0	180	39.6	150	33.0	25	5.5
Thai	745	365	49.0	185	24.8	180	24.2	15	2.0
Laotian	1,135	450	39.7	305	26.9	290	25.6	90	7.9
Vietnamese	755	295	39.1	280	37.1	180	23.8	0	0.0
Other Asian languages	395	210	53.2	90	22.8	65	16.5	30	7.6
Tagalog	8,935	4,325	48.4	3,355	37.6	1,165	13.0	90	1.0
Other Pacific Island languages	2,590	1,620	62.6	665	25.7	280	10.8	25	1.0
Other languages	31,058	21,340	68.7	7,195	23.2	2,233	7.2	290	0.9
Navajo	45	45	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Native North American languages	30,120	20,615	68.4	7,040	23.4	2,175	7.2	290	1.0
Hungarian	80	55	68.8	15	18.8	10	12.5	0	0.0
Arabic	190	140	73.7	25	13.2	25	13.2	0	0.0
Hebrew	220	160	72.7	45	20.5	15	6.8	0	0.0
African languages	224	175	78.1	45	20.1	4	1.8	0	0.0
Other and unspecified languages	179	150	83.8	25	14.0	4	2.2	0	0.0

(X) Not applicable



DIVISION OF INSURANCE

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

March 2, 2006

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Meyer:

As I told the House Finance Committee staff earlier this week, I regret that I am unable to attend Thursday's hearing regarding HB 394 because I will be traveling.

Before I left, however, I wanted express to you the Division of Insurance's support for the bill as it was amended in the Labor and Commerce Committee. The bill protects consumers whose first language is not English, by allowing insurance companies to provide them with important information in their native language, if they make the decision to do so.

We appreciate your sponsorship of this bill. I will be out of town through next week, but can be reached at (907) 723-5684 if you or any committee member has any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery D. Troutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffery D. Troutt
Deputy Director

JDT gc-4864
030206a
cc: Linda S. Hall, Director

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/15/06

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/5/06

Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 394(L&C) am

HB 394 INSURANCE POLICIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

"An Act relating to allowing insurance policy forms to be filed and approved in languages other than English if an official English language version is also filed, and authorizing use of insurance policy forms and associated materials in languages other than English."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

CS Senate Bill:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
SCS House Bill:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DCEI	2/2/06			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
DAVIS <i>[Signature]</i>	X			
ELLIS <i>[Signature]</i>	X			
SEEKINS <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
B. STEVENS <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

DAVIS
ELLIS
SEEKINS
B. STEVENS

BUNDE

HB

395

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: CSHB 395 (FIN)
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
Title An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season RDU Statewide Fire Suppression
Component Fire Suppression Program
Sponsor Olson
Requester HFC Component No. 2705

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee

Phone 465-4945/465-3779

Rep. Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair

Date 3/2/2006

Rep. Mike Chenault, Co-Chair

adopted 3/2/06

24-LS1550F
Bullock
3/2/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 395()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES OLSON, Hawker, Seaton, Dahlstrom, LeDoux, Gruenberg, Foster

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act extending the period of the fire season; and providing for an effective date."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 41.15.050 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 41.15.050. Fire season. The period from April [MAY] 1 to August 31
5 [SEPTEMBER 30], inclusive, of each year is designated the fire season. The
6 commissioner may designate other periods as fire season. The commissioner may
7 proclaim an additional period for all or any portion of the state when weather or other
8 conditions require action for the protection of forested land. The commissioner may
9 also, during the fire season, prohibit, or allow only by permit, the setting of fires,
10 smoking, entry, or other use on the land, when, in the judgment of the commissioner,
11 the activities would unduly increase the fire danger.

12 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).