

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

3059 SCOMM 139: HOUSE SPECIAL COMM.ON MIL.&VET.AFFAIRS 2005-2006

SCOMM

139:7

Rep. Lynn

LEGAL SERVICES

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

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

MEMORANDUM

April 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Authority to Set Personal Needs Allowance for Assisted Living Home Resident Under Medicaid (HB 168)

TO: Representative Max Gruenberg
Attn: Sarah Hook

FROM: Jean Mischel
Legislative Counsel

You have asked whether the Department of Health and Social Services is currently authorized under state law to set the amount of a personal needs allowance for an eligible recipient of medical assistance who is residing in an assisted living home. The answer is yes. In fact, the department has currently set the amount at \$100 in regulation. The amount is limited by federal authorization but not affected by state law.

A personal needs allowance is provided for a recipient of public assistance so that the recipient may purchase necessary items such as clothing and day-to-day incidentals. The allowance is either a deduction from income for eligibility purposes or a cash benefit after eligibility is determined. State law currently authorizes the department to set eligibility standards and benefit amounts consistent with federal law. For an eligible recipient of medical assistance who is residing in an assisted living home that amount is currently set by the department at \$100 under 7 AAC 40.395. Other regulations describe additional eligibility and income standards for medical assistance coverage.

While I have identified several relevant statutes authorizing the department to set the level of personal needs allowance, I have found nothing in state law that limits that amount.

AS 47.05.010 establishes the duties of the department. The duties include the obligation to:

(9) adopt regulations, not inconsistent with law, defining need, prescribing the conditions of eligibility for assistance, and establishing standards for determining the amount of assistance that an eligible person is entitled to receive; the amount of the assistance is sufficient when, added to all other income and resources available to an individual, it provides the individual with a reasonable subsistence compatible with health and well-being; an individual who meets the requirements for

eligibility for assistance shall be granted the assistance promptly upon application for it;

AS 47.25.430 authorizes, for a recipient of public assistance generally, that eligibility and benefit amounts will track federally authorized benefits. That section provides:

(a) Financial assistance shall be given under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615, so far as practicable under appropriations made by law, to every aged, blind, or disabled needy resident who has not made a voluntary assignment or transfer of property to qualify for assistance. In this subsection, "resident" means a person who is living in the state voluntarily with the intention of making the state the person's home and who is not living in the state for a temporary purpose.

(b) The department shall determine the amount of assistance with regard to the resources and needs of the person and the conditions existing in each case. Assistance shall be in an amount that will provide the applicant with reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health in accordance with standards established by the department and with the standards established under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383 (Title XVI, Social Security Act Supplemental Security Income Program). Direct payments for medical services and remedial care may not be considered in determining the maximum amount payable. When benefit amounts under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383 are increased as a result of an increase in the cost of living, the state shall pass along the increase to recipients and shall increase the amount of the state contribution to recipients, other than those receiving a personal needs allowance, by a percentage of the state contribution equal to the percentage increase in the benefit amounts under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383 if the legislature has appropriated money specifically for the purpose of increasing the state contribution because of an increase in federal benefit amounts under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383; this increase in the state contribution takes effect on the same day that the corresponding federal increase in benefits under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383 takes effect.

(c) Payment under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615 may not be made to a person who is a resident of a public institution, except as a patient in a public medical institution, or a person who is a patient in a public or private institution for treatment of a mental disease. For purposes of this subsection, "resident" and "patient" do not include a person who is institutionalized for medical services for a period of less than three months if the person needs to continue to maintain and provide for the expenses of a home or living arrangement to which that person may return upon discharge from the institution.

(d) A resident of an institution may, upon or in anticipation of leaving the institution, apply for assistance under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615 instead of the support and maintenance provided in the institution.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB168-DHSS-DSDS-03-07-05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

() Publish Date: _____
Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Title INCOME OF ALASKA PIONEERS' HOME OR
ALASKA VETERANS' HOME RESIDENTS

RDU Senior and Disabilities Svcs

Component Senior/Disabilities Medicaid Svc

Sponsor HOUSE (MVA)

Requester HOUSE (MVA)

Component No. 2662

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 Interagency Receipts	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)	(687.5)

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Currently, both the Pioneer Homes payment assistance program (funded with GF) and the Older Alaskans Medicaid Waiver (Fed w/GF Match) allow residents to retain \$100/month for personal needs before contributing to their own cost of care.

Section 1 of HB 168 - AS 47.55.020 (c) amends the current statute to increase that amount by \$50, allowing a resident to keep \$150 each month before the balance of their income is paid toward the Pioneer Home cost of care.

Prepared by: Steve Ashman, Director

Phone (907) 465-3165

Division Senior & Disabilities Services

Date/Time _____

Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner

Date 03/07/2005

Agency Department of Health and Social Services

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Medicaid rules, however, permit only \$100 to be retained before paying toward the cost of care for waiver services. The additional \$50 would be considered available for the cost of care and, for that reason, residents would have to give up the \$50 per month if they applied for the Older Alaskans Medicaid waiver.

The additional \$50 per month would encourage seniors to maintain their current payment assistance benefits (100% GF) and discourage them from applying for the Older Alaskans Medicaid Waiver (Fed/GFM). We have no experience as to how many residents would choose to not apply for the waiver if such a disincentive existed, but there are now 10 residents who are receiving waiver services and another 43 who have applied. Based on Pioneer Home payment assistance statistics, the number of Medicaid waiver applicants is expected to continue to increase to 88 or more residents during the coming months. The Pioneer Homes estimates that half of those potential Medicaid waiver recipients, 44 Pioneer Home residents, would chose to keep the added \$50 per month rather than apply for the waiver.

Payments to Pioneer Home residents under the Older Alaskan's Waiver are made from the DSDS federal Medicaid budget. The Alaska Pioneer Homes gives DSDS interagency receipts via an RSA to provide general fund match for Waiver payments made to eligible residents. The loss of 44 residents applying for the Older Alaskans Medicaid Waiver would result in the loss of half the \$1,375.0 (\$687.5) I/A receipts currently budgeted for this purpose.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB168-DHSS-DAPH-03-07-05
() Publish Date: _____
Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Title INCOME OF ALASKA PIONEERS' HOME OR
ALASKA VETERANS' HOME RESIDENTS

RDU Alaskan Pioneer Homes

Component Pioneers Homes

Sponsor HOUSE (MVA)

Requester HOUSE (MVA)

Component No. 2671

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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 (0)

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1,102.4	1,102.4	1,102.4	1,102.4	1,102.4	1,102.4
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 Inter-agency Receipts	(937.4)	(937.4)	(937.4)	(937.4)	(937.4)	(937.4)
1156 Receipt Support Services	(165.0)	(165.0)	(165.0)	(165.0)	(165.0)	(165.0)
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS:

(Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 168 amends three provisions in the Pioneer Homes statute that are intended to assure that a resident has a certain minimum per month for personal expenses. The amendments would raise the current \$100 personal needs amount to \$150 per month. A \$50 increase does not seem unreasonable given the effect of inflation over the years since the current \$100 personal needs amount was set. However, given the incentives and costs associated with the bill, additional general funds will be required if it is implemented.

Approximately 275 Pioneer Home residents benefited from these three provisions during the past

Prepared by: Virginia Smiley

Division: Alaskan Pioneer Homes

Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-4422

Date/Time 03/03/2005

Date 03/07/2005

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

12 months, setting the value of the additional \$50 per month at an annual \$165.0 (\$50 X 12 months X 275 residents). If the bill becomes law, the division would be required to disregard an additional \$50 of income that would have been received as resident fees. An additional \$165.0 in state general funds would be required to offset reduced Receipt Supported Services now collected as resident fees.

The additional \$50 per month would encourage seniors to maintain their current payment assistance benefits (100% GF) and discourage them from applying for the Older Alaskans Medicaid Waiver (Fed/GFM) - a new benefit projected to save \$1,847.7 per year when qualified residents have applied for the Medicaid waiver. These projected savings were already built into the FY06 budget.

The savings were expected to result when residents who have relied on the state funded Pioneer Home payment assistance program decide to apply for the state-federal funded Medicaid waiver instead of relying fully on the state-funded program. Medicaid rules permit \$100 to be retained before paying toward the cost of care for waiver services. The additional \$50 would be counted as available for the cost of care and, for that reason, residents would have to give up the \$50 per month if they applied for the waiver.

We have no experience for how many residents would choose to not apply for the waiver if such a disincentive existed, however, there are now 10 residents who are approved for waiver services and another 43 who have applied. Based on Pioneer Home payment assistance statistics, the number of approved Medicaid waiver applicants is expected to continue to increase to 88 or more residents during the coming months. If half of those potential Medicaid waiver recipients, 44 Pioneer Home residents, chose to keep the added \$50 per month rather than apply for the waiver, the department would receive approximately \$937.4 less per year in federal funds (half of the projected \$1,874.7 annual general fund savings). The amount is based on an assumption that 44 residents will choose to keep the \$50 per month rather than qualify for the Medicaid waiver.

The \$1,102.4 GF increase in this Pioneers Homes component fiscal note includes the \$165.0 needed to offset reduced Receipt Support Services from resident fees due to the \$50 per month increase in personal needs allowance plus the \$937.4 to offset the decrease in inter-agency transfer that would have been funded with federal Medicaid receipts. In addition, the reduction of the \$687.5 RSA payment to DSDS for Medicaid match is not shown in the fiscal note as the GF will instead be used as a portion of the increased Pioneer Home payment assistance.

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24-LS0601\G

Mischel

4/19/05

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 168()**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA****TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION****BY****Offered:****Referred:****Sponsor(s): HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS****A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to receipt of income by Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans'
2 Home residents and by recipients of medical assistance, general relief assistance, adult
3 public assistance, who reside in assisted living homes; and increasing the amount of the
4 personal needs allowance."

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

6 * Section 1. AS 47.07.070(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Except as provided under (d) of this section, the [THE] department
8 shall, by regulation, set rates of payment for health facilities under this chapter and
9 AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300 in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396 (Title XIX, Social
10 Security Act, Medical Assistance) and this section. A rate established under this
11 section takes effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) but not until
12 approved in writing by the commissioner. The commissioner may delegate the
13 performance of these functions.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 47.07.070 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

24-LS0601\G

(d) The department shall allow an eligible recipient of medical assistance who is residing in an assisted living home licensed under AS 47.33 an allowance of \$150 a month for personal needs, such as clothes or day-to-day incidentals. The personal needs allowance may not be applied toward the recipient's cost of care. The source of income for the personal needs allowance may be from public assistance, including general relief payments under AS 47.25 and payments for older Alaskans made under AS 47.65, or from private income.

* Sec. 3. AS 47.25.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) The amount of assistance for a needy person shall be determined by the department with regard to the resources and needs of the person and the conditions existing in each case. Where possible, assistance shall be sufficient to provide the applicant with reasonable subsistence according to standards of assistance established by the department. However, except as provided in (c) of this section, the amount of assistance for subsistence needs may not exceed \$120 a person a calendar month.

* Sec. 4. AS 47.25.130 is amended by adding a new section to read:

(c) In lieu of a payment for subsistence needs under (a) of this section, the department shall allow an eligible recipient of general relief assistance who is residing in an assisted living home licensed under AS 47.33 a personal needs allowance of \$150 a month for personal needs, such as clothes or day-to-day incidentals.

* Sec. 5. AS 47.25.430 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) The department shall allow a personal needs allowance of \$150 a month for personal needs, such as clothes and day-to-day incidentals, to an eligible recipient who resides in an assisted living home licensed under AS 47.33.

* Sec. 6. AS 47.25.435 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.25.435. **Exclusion of income.** Notwithstanding the provisions of AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615, if the applicable provisions of 42 U.S.C. 301 - 1397f (Social Security Act), as amended, permit, in determining the need of an applicant for, or a recipient of, an assistance grant under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615, the department shall exclude from the computation of the applicant's or recipient's income the amounts specified in 42 U.S.C. [SEC.] 1382a(b), as amended, amounts specified in regulations adopted to implement the supplemental security income provisions of

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

24-LS0601VG

1 federal law, a personal needs allowance of \$150 a month for residents of an
2 assisted living home licensed under AS 47.33, and any amounts specified by the
3 department by regulation so long as exclusion of those amounts is not in conflict with
4 federal law.

5 * Sec. 7. AS 47.55.020(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Every person admitted to a home who receives income from any source in
7 excess of \$150 [\$100] a month shall be required by the department to pay the excess
8 to the department immediately upon receipt of the money in payment, or part payment,
9 of the cost of the person's care. However, the department may not require in any
10 month the payment of an amount greater than the monthly rate set under
11 AS 47.55.030(b) except to satisfy indebtedness incurred under AS 47.55.070. The
12 department may not evict a person from a home if the income and assets of the person
13 are insufficient to pay the monthly rate set under AS 47.55.030(b) and the person is
14 otherwise in compliance with requirements under this chapter.

15 * Sec. 8. AS 47.55.020(c) is amended to read:

16 (c) At the end of each month, the payments made under (b) of this section
17 shall be transmitted to the commissioner of revenue. The department may pay the sum
18 of \$150 [\$100] a month to a resident without money.

19 * Sec. 9. AS 47.55.020(d) is amended to read:

20 (d) Notwithstanding AS 47.55.070 and (b) of this section, a resident of a home
21 whose income, assets, and other resources are insufficient to pay the monthly rate set
22 under AS 47.55.030(b), and who does not have private insurance to cover the cost of
23 care, qualifies for payment assistance if the resident is otherwise in compliance with
24 requirements under this chapter. The amount of payment assistance equals the amount
25 needed, when added to other income and assets of the resident, to pay the monthly rate
26 set under AS 47.55.030(b). Payment assistance received by a home resident is a debt
27 to the state. In determining the amount of payment assistance for which a home
28 resident qualifies, the following income, assets, and other resources of the resident
29 shall be disregarded:

30 (1) income from any source in an amount up to \$150 [\$100] a month
31 as established by the department by regulation;

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MEMORANDUM

March 16, 2005

SUBJECT: Permanent fund dividend "hold harmless"
(Work Order No. 24-LS0794)

TO: Representative Max Gruenberg

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director

*FOR
HB 168*

TBC

(1) How does the PFD hold harmless program work?

There is a statute, that I would consider to be part of the PFD hold harmless provision, that simply directs state agencies and municipalities that administer a benefit program based on financial need to disregard the receipt of a dividend. So far as I know, no special funding is provided, although each of the programs may experience some additional cost attributed to the additional recipients eligible as a result of this provision.

Sec. 43.23.085. Eligibility for state programs. A program administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or municipalities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may not consider a permanent fund dividend as income or resources unless required to do so by federal law or regulation.

The statute that is most commonly referred to as the hold harmless provision is AS 43.23.075 which makes up, from the state general relief assistance program, benefits that are lost to recipients as a result of federal law that requires a permanent fund dividend to be counted as income or resources.

Sec. 43.23.075. Eligibility for public assistance. (a) In determining the eligibility of an individual under a public assistance program administered by the Department of Health and Social Services in which eligibility for assistance is based on financial need, the Department of Health and Social Services may not consider a permanent fund dividend as income or resources received by the recipient of public assistance or by a member of the recipient's household unless required to do so by federal law or regulation. The Department of Health and Social Services shall notify all recipients of public assistance of the effects of receiving a permanent fund dividend.

(b) An individual who is denied medical assistance under 42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p (Social Security Act, Title XIX) solely because of the receipt of a permanent fund dividend by the individual or by a member of the individual's household is eligible for state-funded medical assistance under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300 (general relief assistance program). The individual is entitled to receive, for a period not to exceed four months, the same level of medical assistance as the individual would have received under 42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p (Social Security Act, Title XIX) had there been no permanent fund dividend program.

(c) An individual who is denied assistance solely because permanent fund dividends received by the individual or by a member of the individual's household are counted as income or resources under federal law or regulation is eligible for cash assistance under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300 (general relief assistance program). Notwithstanding the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled to receive, for a period not to exceed four months, the same amount as the individual would have received under other public assistance programs had there been no permanent fund dividend program.

(2) Where do the funds come from to pay the cost of the hold harmless program?

Money to pay for the hold harmless provisions under AS 43.23.075 is normally appropriated from the dividend fund which is administered by the Commissioner of Revenue and used for payment of dividends. (AS 43.23.045) Indeed, AS 43.23.028(a) provides in part: "the stub attached to each individual dividend check and direct deposit advice must . . . (3) disclose the amount by which each dividend has been reduced due to each appropriation from the dividend fund, including amounts to pay the costs of administering the dividend program **and the hold harmless provisions of AS 43.23.075...**" (Emphasis added) The dividend fund is, itself, funded from the earnings reserve account in the permanent fund. (AS 37.13.145(b)) Consequently, the cost of the hold harmless provisions is ultimately funded from income of the permanent fund. Of course, another funding source could be used for this purpose.

TBC:med
05-188.med

Dave Williams

HB 168

Fiscal Notes

Max left him a message

He is just one member

We can pick those up and start

Sees it as getting too complicated

Two thoughts

Rather ^{than} put a 50.00 increase in adult public assistance, etc it can be done by regulations but make the effective date of the dept getting approval on the increase from Medicaid...etc

Other alternative is thinking it was a veterans idea in the first place. It came thru the pioneer home bill is an assisted living – dave's opinion it's a great time to get a vets benefit.

Representative Max Gruenberg
April 22, 2005
Page 4

(d) Each award shall be paid on a monthly basis. In case it is impracticable by reason of slow or interrupted means of communication for a warrant covering a month's assistance to reach the recipient in due course, the department may transmit warrants covering assistance for future months and may deliver all of them to the recipient at one time.

For a recipient of medical assistance who is living in an assisted living home, the payment or deduction of a personal needs allowance is primarily regulated by the federal rules pertaining to the home and community based waiver program. That program and the federal limits is beyond the scope of this memorandum but it is related to the contingency in the bill requiring federal approval for establishing a higher personal needs allowance for medical assistance recipients. Additional state authority, however, is not what is lacking for increasing the allowance.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

JMM:med
05-292.med

(e) Notwithstanding (a) and (b) of this section, the department shall, in a manner that complies with federal requirements, reduce the maximum state contribution to recipients otherwise payable on August 24, 1993 to the maximum state contribution to recipients that was in effect on January 1, 1992. On and after August 24, 1993, the department shall, in a manner that complies with federal requirements, calculate the amount of monthly assistance for a recipient based on the maximum state contribution to recipients in effect on January 1, 1992, as modified by any increase under (b) of this section.

(f) Unless the person is not eligible under the limited eligibility provision of 8 U.S.C. 1613, a state payment under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615 shall be made to a person who

- (1) meets the requirements of state law
- (2) is a qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641; and
- (3) otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383.

(emphasis added)

AS 47.25.460 authorizes the department to make eligibility determinations and to make decisions pertaining to the amount and nature of assistance. That section provides:

(a) Upon completion of the investigation, the department shall promptly decide whether the applicant is eligible for and should receive adult public assistance, the amount of it, the manner of paying it, and the date on which it starts. The department may make additional investigation that it considers necessary and shall make its decision as to the granting of assistance and the amount and nature of assistance as is justified and in conformity with AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615. The department shall notify the applicant of its decision in writing.

(b) Assistance under AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615 is subject to review. If a recipient of adult public assistance or the spouse of a recipient with whom the recipient is living acquires nonexempt property exceeding resource limitations, or income sufficient to maintain the recipient properly, then the assistance granted to the recipient shall either be terminated or reduced to an amount reflecting the reduced need as determined by the department in accordance with applicable regulations. Upon review, the department may, after having provided opportunity for a hearing under (c) of this section, change the assistance granted or terminate it entirely if it finds that the circumstances are changed sufficiently to warrant this action.

(c) A recipient whose award is proposed to be modified or terminated, or an applicant whose application is denied by the department, shall be granted an opportunity for a hearing before a representative of the department appointed for that purpose. The hearing shall be held promptly after a request for hearing is made. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with regulations adopted by the department.

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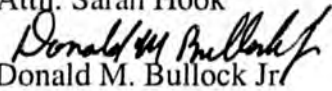
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

March 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Sectional analysis for HB 168 (Work Order No. 24-LS0601\A)

TO: Representative Max Gruenberg
Attn: Sarah Hook

FROM: 
Donald M. Bullock Jr.
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

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. Amends AS 47.55.020(b) by increasing the amount of monthly income a resident of an Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home may keep from \$100 to \$150.

Section 2. Amends AS 47.55.020(c) by increasing the monthly amount the Department of Health and Social Services may pay the resident of an Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home, who has no money, from \$100 to \$150.

Section 3. Amends AS 47.55.020(d)(1) by increasing the amount of monthly income for a resident of an Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home that may be disregarded, for the purpose of determining the amount of payment assistance, from \$100 to \$150.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DMB:jad
05-159.jad

Alaska State Legislature

Chair

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Member

Labor and Commerce Committee
State Affairs Committee
Econ Dev, Int'l Trade & Tourism
Education Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees

Labor and Workforce Development
Community and Economic Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
Chairman
House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Session:

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Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us

HB 168

Sponsor Statement

HB 168 increases the amount of allowable income for residents of an Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home from \$100 to \$150. Last year the House approved an amendment increasing the funds to \$150, however it did not survive the conference committee.

Please see the sectional analysis provided by legal services, which outlines the applicable circumstances.

SCOMM

139:8

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPC T

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: February 28, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS: Labor and Commerce

Date of Committee Action: 3-17-05

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 181

HOUSE BILL NO. 181

WAIVE CONTINUING EDUC. REQ FOR MILITARY

"An Act establishing a waiver for active duty military service of continuing education requirements for renewal of occupational licenses."

Recommends it be replaced with ☐ HCS or ☒ CS for HB181 ()

For Senate Bills with new title: ☐ Technical Title ☐ New Title: HCR_____ ☒ Same Title ☐ New Title

[] attach amendments

☐ add new referral to _____ Committee

☐ Letter of Intent _____ Committee

*List of
Abbrev
for
Depts.:*
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
Walter B. J.		Thomas	✓			
M. J. J.		Grunhagen	✓			
Edith M. J.		Cissner	✓			
John M. J.		ELICHALS	L			
John M. J.		McNair	✓			
Chair: John		LYNN	X			
Chair:						

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Contact:

Interim Address:

3340 Badger Road
North Pole, AK 99705
(907)-488-5725
Fax# (907)-488-4271

**Session**

(907)-465-3719
FAX# (907)-465-3258
State Capitol
Room 204

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2005

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs

From: Representative John Coghill 

Re: HB 181

I am requesting that HB 181 "An Act establishing a waiver for active duty military service of continuing education requirements for renewal of occupational licenses" be scheduled for a hearing at your earliest convenience.

I have attached the sponsor statement.

Contact: Kelly Huber: 465-3783
Date: 03-17-05
Action: (H) MLV » (H) FIN

HB 166: VETERANS' MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

Creates the Governor's Memorial Certificate Program to allow the Adjutant General to honor deceased veterans who are Alaska residents by issuing to their family death certificates. The Certificate Program is modeled after the Presidential memorial certificate program. It is the intent that the Governor's Memorial Certificate Program will simply be a certificate issued to surviving family members or other eligible recipients as defined, acknowledging the State's appreciation of the service of deceased veterans.

Version: HB 166
Sponsor: (H) MLV
Contact: Nancy Manly:
Date: 03-17-05
Action: (H) MLV » (H) STA

HB 167: DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR DECEASED VETERAN

Provides a death certificate without cost to a surviving spouse, next of kin, or other relative of a deceased veteran. The bill is modeled after Arizona statute, which provides the death certificate for purpose of obtaining Veteran's or Social Security Benefits.

Version: HB 167
Sponsor: (H) MLV
Contact: Nancy Manly: 465-4931
Date: 03-17-05
Action: (H) (MVA) » (H) STA

HB 178: SPECIAL REQUEST LICENSE PLATES

Allows all motor vehicles subject to registration the opportunity to display the standard, 'vanity' or a specialty plate offered by the DMV. Each additional plate sold will generate additional revenue for the State of Alaska.

Version: CS HB 178 (STA)
Sponsor: Olson
Contact: Eleanor Wolfe: 465-3707
Date: 03-17-05
Action: (H) STA » (H) FIN

HB 181: WAIVE CONTINUING EDUC. REQ FOR MILITARY

Introduced to eliminate the possibility of a professional licensee losing his or her license because of failure to fulfill statutory requirements for continuing education while serving on active duty in a combat zone or area where continuing education classes are not available.

Version: HB 181
Sponsor: Coghill
Contact: Karen Lidster: 465-3719
Date: 03-17-05
Action: (H) MLV » (H) L&C

HB 201: PERM. FUND DIVIDEND APPS OF MILITARY

The purpose of this bill is to permit the person who has power of attorney for an individual who is serving on active duty with the United States armed services outside the state of Alaska to sign and file a permanent fund application for said individual.

24-LS0685\1

1 renewal of a license for the period in which a licensee is engaged in active duty
2 military service as described under (c) of this section;

3 (7) forward a draft of the minutes of proceedings to the department
4 within 20 days after the proceedings;

5 (8) forward results of board examinations to the department within 20
6 days after the examination is given;

7 (9) notify the department of meeting dates and agenda items at least 15
8 days before meetings and other proceedings are held;

9 (10) submit before the end of the fiscal year an annual performance
10 report to the department stating the board's accomplishments, activities, and needs.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.100(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) When continuing education or other requirements are made a condition of
13 license renewal, the requirements shall be satisfied before a license is renewed except
14 that the department may establish and implement a waiver of continuing
15 education requirements for renewal of a license for the period in which a licensee
16 is engaged in active duty military service as a reserve or auxiliary member of the
17 armed forces of the United States. In this subsection, "reserve or auxiliary
18 member" means a member of a reserve or auxiliary component of the armed
19 forces of the United States, including the organized militia of the state, consisting
20 of the Alaska National Guard, the Alaska Naval Militia, and the Alaska State
21 Defense Force, and who is called to active duty by the appropriate state or federal
22 authority.

3-18-05
HB 181
Corrected Version
after it had been
read across the floor
Chief Clerk's office
fixed this page over

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session

(907)-465-3719

FAX# (907)-465-3258

State Capitol
Room 204

Contact:

Interim Address:

3340 Badger Road
North Pole, AK 99705
(907)-488-5725
Fax# (907)-488-4271



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

HB 181 Continuing Education Waiver Sponsor Statement

This bill was introduced to eliminate the possibility of a professional licensee losing his or her license because of the inability to fulfill statutory requirements for continuing education when engaged in active military service. One example would be an Alaskan dentist serving active duty in Iraq for the Alaska Army National Guard.

This legislation allows profession boards that regulate professional licenses to establish waivers of "continuing education requirements for renewal of a license for the period in which a licensee is engaged in active duty military service."

SCOMM

139:9

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPC T

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: March 4, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS: State Affairs

Date of Committee Action: 3-17-05

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 201

HOUSE BILL NO. 201

PERM. FUND DIVIDEND APPS OF MILITARY

"An Act relating to an application for a permanent fund dividend for a member of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty outside of the state; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [] HCS or [] CS for _____ (_____)
For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR _____ [] Same Title [] New Title

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

*List of
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ADM
CED
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DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
Walt B. [Signature]	Thomson	✓			
[Signature]	Greenberg	✓			
[Signature]	Cissna	✓			
[Signature]	ELISINS	✓			
[Signature]	McGuire	✓			
Chair: [Signature]	LYNN	X			

STATE OF ALASKA

**REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE CHENAULT**

Official Business

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Fax: (907) 283-3075

Session:
Capitol Building, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3779
Toll Free: (800) 469-3779
Fax: (907) 465-2833

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 3, 2005

To: Representative Lynn, Chair
Representative Dahlstrom
Representative Elkins
Representative McGuire
Representative Thomas
Representative Cissna
Representative Gruenberg

From: Representative Mike Chenault

Subject: Request for Military & Veterans Affairs Committee hearing

This office respectfully requests a hearing of the House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee on HB 201 "An act relating to an application for a permanent fund dividend for a member of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty outside of the state; and providing for an effective date" as soon as possible.

If you have further questions on the scheduling of this committee hearing, please contact Sue Wright in Room 505 (907) 465-3779.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

STATE OF ALASKA

**REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE CHENAULT**

Official Business

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145 Main St. Loop, Second Floor
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-7223
Fax: (907) 283-3075



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session:
Capitol Building, Room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3779
Toll Free: (800) 469-3779
Fax: (907) 465-2833

Sponsor Statement

HB201

HB 201 "An act relating to an application for a permanent fund dividend for a member of the armed services of the United States serving on active duty outside the state of Alaska"

The purpose of this bill is to permit the person who has power of attorney for an individual who is serving on active duty with the United States armed services outside the state of Alaska to sign and file a permanent fund application for said individual.

Erich Deland

From: Linda Zimmerman [lzimmerman@kpbsd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2005 10:24 PM
To: Erich Deland
Cc: troy.zimmerman@us.army.mil
Subject: HB 201 testimonial

Erich,

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the teleconference regarding HB 201 on Thursday, March 17. :(I have prepared a statement to be read & know that it would have a bigger impact if I was to speak. Being a teacher makes it difficult for me to be present at the time. Thank you for all you have done & all that Rep. Chenault has done with this situation. I pray that HB 201 gets passed quickly!

Linda

My name is Linda Zimmerman. I am a teacher on the Kenai Peninsula. My husband, Troy, is a History & Spanish teacher at the local high school in the town of Nikiski. We have 3 young children. My husband is also an Alaska Natl. Guardsman. My husband has been in the Natl. Guards for 21 years! Although he could have retired in February 2004 after receiving his 20 year letter, he decided to sign on for more years to serve his country.

On October 2004, our world was totally turned upside down. My husband was being deployed & would be overseas for 12 to 18 months serving his country with the Army. Never in a million years did I ever think this would happen to my family. There were a lot of emotions that we went through initially & still are going through. It has been a rollercoaster of emotions, disappointments & frustrations.

One of those frustrations was in January 2005 when I got a call from my husband & he informed me he would be heading "out" soon. I picked up my Permanent Dividen Fund application packet & asked him to help me fill out his so I could submit it with the General Power of Attorney I had. I was told that if I did it online it would be easy. The process was anything BUT easy! I was told via email that,

"Despite the fact that you may have a Power of Attorney for your husband, he is still physically able to sign his own application. He will have to sign before he will receive his 2005 dividend. When the application is processed, it will go through the intial review stage, and your husband will be mailed a letter requesting his signature. If you are in contact with your husband and he can sign the application and get it USPS postmarked back to us by March 31, 2005, you may want to do that. Or, you can mail in the application and we will process it and send your husband a signature page. Please ensure you provide us with a copy of the Power of Attorney so we have it for our records and can discuss his application with you." (taken from the actual rejection email I received)

Now, I am a person who follows protocol & rules as a teacher, but I was so frustrated & confused by this rejection letter. My husband was going into a Combat Zone & the PFD office was more concerned over follow the proper protocol! I knew that I was not the only military spouse going through this, so that is when I decided to contact Representative Mike Chenault's office. I was told at a meeting the month before my husband left that having General Power of Attorney meant I could conduct official business on behalf of my husband's part. I even sent the PFD office a copy of the General Power of Attorney paperwork along with the 2 sets of orders for my husband. I sent 13 pages of documentation that proved that I in fact had General Power of Attorney for my husband. In the next 3 to 4 weeks, NEVER did the PFD office leave a message at my work phone number, home phone number or my cellular number. All of which they had. I found this very impersonal. All of my contact with them was via email. I tried calling the PFD office & I even left messages, but I never spoke to a human being.

Although my husband has email/computer access, I can count on 1 hand the number of times my husband has emailed me from Iraq. The soldiers have to sign up for their time on the

computers, & that time is only 20 or 30 minutes long. Internet connection can sometimes be tricky since they use jammers for security reasons, thus breaking phone connections. The power was out for 3 days recently in my husband's area, something unexpected for the soldiers, as is the situation in any war. The soldiers in Iraq & other places in the Middle East have an important job to do. Filing their PFD online is the LAST thing that they want to think about doing after a 12 hour shift of military duty. Also, you can imagine, the mailing system can be rather slow & unreliable when you are half way around the world.

I am very proud to say that my husband is serving his country, as are my children. I know that he has a long & difficult task before him, just as we do on the homefront. The PFD office has NO clue what they are talking about when they ask for my husband's signature, using the internet & sending things via email. My husband is a very busy soldier, doing what soldiers do in a combat situation. THIS takes priority over physically filling out a PFD form. THAT is what General Power of Attorney is for.

It is time that the PFD Dept. take a long hard look at their policies & seriously think about modifying some of the rules & policies, particularly when it comes to military spouses & their soldiers. As time goes by, more & more soldiers from Alaska are being deployed. Other spouses & soldiers will have to deal with the stress & headaches I have had to endure. The situation we military wives are in, is stressful enough! I beg you to please consider passing HB 201, not just for me, but for ALL Alaskan soldiers & their families. My husband is serving his country for goodness sake, doesn't that mean anything to anyone anymore?

Thank you for your time!

Linda L. Zimmerman
4/5th Multiage Educator
Student Council Coordinator
Nikiski North Star Elementary

"The 6 Pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, & Citizenship. Have you hugged your PILLARS today?"

LEGAL SERVICES

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

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

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

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2005

SUBJECT: Permanent fund dividends for members of the armed forces;
sectional summary (HB 201)

TO: Representative Mike Chenault,
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Attn: Erich DeLand

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

Sec. 1. Permits another person to complete and file a permanent fund dividend application for a member of the United States armed forces who is serving outside of the country. The person must have a power of attorney from the member of the armed forces that authorizes the person to file the application.

Sec. 2. The effective date is January 1, 2006, the day before the beginning of the filing period for 2006 permanent fund dividend applications.

TBC:med
05-166.med

Permanent Fund Dividend Division
2005 Permanent Fund Dividend Application
Filing on Behalf of a Deployed Military Member
Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can a military member stationed overseas apply on-line?**
Yes, a military member can apply on-line or download any needed forms anywhere in the world, if they have access to a computer with internet capability at www.pfd.state.ak.us.
- **Can another person fill out, sign and submit an application for an absent military member?**
A person with power of attorney for the military member can fill out the application and submit it to PFD. However, the military member must ultimately sign a certification form. An unsigned application filed on or before the March 31 deadline by a power of attorney will be considered timely.
- **How do I apply for an active duty military member?**
You will need to complete a Permanent Fund Dividend "B" Application (Filing on Behalf of an Adult). You can download the B Application from the PFD web-site (www.pfd.state.ak.us) or contact the division and request an application. You will be required to submit a copy of your power of attorney with the application.
- **What if the military member is not available to sign an application or eligibility verification form before March 31?**
You should file the "B" application using your power of attorney as outlined above. We will process the application and send you a request for the military member's signature (Eligibility Verification Form). We will pend the application until we receive the completed signed form.
- **What if the military member misses the application deadline (March 31, 2005)?**
Some military members may apply late. If the military member was eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger pay while serving on active duty during the filing period (January 2 through March 31, 2005), the member has 90 days to apply after the last day he/she was eligible to receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay. Documentation of the member's pay status will be required. All other military members must file by the March 31, 2005, deadline or have a power of attorney file on their behalf.
- **What if I receive a letter from the PFD Division for the military member requesting information, and the member cannot respond by the deadline in the letter?**
If the military member is not able to respond by the deadline, contact your local dividend information office, or call 1-800-733-8813. We will extend the deadline for processing until the information can be submitted.
- **What if I receive a denial letter from the PFD Division because the military member did not respond to the division's request for information?**
If you receive a denial letter based on lack of response from the military member, contact your local dividend information office or call 1-800-733-8813. If the military member was unable to respond, we will extend the deadline for processing until the necessary information can be submitted.
- **What if the military member was not able to return to Alaska in 2003 or 2004 to meet the 72 hour rule?**
The Commissioner of Revenue has executed a waiver from this rule for military members who are able to document that they were unable to return for 72 hours during 2003 or 2004 due to the current national emergency. Contact your local Dividend Information Office for further information. The waiver does not apply to spouses or dependents.

SCOMM

139:10

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPC T

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: March 7, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS: State Affairs
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3-31-05

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: **HB 208**

HOUSE BILL NO. 208

STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY

"An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain an Alaskan veterans' cemetery; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund."

Recommends it be replaced with ☐ HCS or ☒ CS for 11B208 ()

For Senate Bills with new title: ☐ Technical Title ☐ New Title: HCR_____ ☒ Same Title ☐ New Title

☐ attach amendments

☐ add new referral to _____Committee

[] Letter of Intent _____ Committee

*List of
Abbrev
for
Depts.:*
ADM
CED
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DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Max Hunter</i>	<i>Granberg</i>	✓			
<i>David Ahlstrom</i>	<i>Ahlstrom</i>	✓			
<i>Elkins</i>	<i>ELKINS</i>	✓			
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	✓			
Chair: <i>Bob Lynn</i>	<i>LYNN</i>	✓			
Chair:					

Session:
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

Alaska State Legislature
Representative David Guttenberg

Interim:
119 N. Cushman
Suite 211
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-8172
(907) 451-9293 Fax

District 8

MEMO

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

From: Representative David Guttenberg

Date: March 9, 2005

Re: Hearing request for HB 208, An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain an Alaskan veterans' cemetery; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund.

I respectfully request a hearing on House Bill 208 in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Attached you will find:

- Current version of HB 208
- Sponsor statement
- Press release
- State Cemetery Grant Program and eligibility requirements for Burial Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs Administration
- Fairbanks Veterans Cemetery Worksheet Operational and Maintenance Cost spreadsheet

I look forward to presenting it before the committee as soon as is convenient. My staff, Danielle Brown-Farrell is assigned to this legislation if there are any questions, 465-4708.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sponsor



Statement

SESSION:
Alaska State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

INTERIM:
119 N. Cushman, Suite 211
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office (907) 486-8872
Fax (907) 486-5264

Representative David Guttenberg

SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 208

Alaskan veterans deserve a cemetery that is located in the Interior that honors their service. Their sacrifices while serving our country, often in less comfortable conditions and many times in harms way, should be recognized.

There are many hardships involved in losing a loved one. Alaska has more residents in the military on a per-capita basis than any other state. According to the USDA Veterans Association, Fairbanks North Star Borough has approximately 11,164 veterans. Forty percent of families in the Fairbanks area have at least one veteran in their household and 16% have at least one woman in the household who is a veteran.

A state veterans' cemetery in the Interior would better serve needs of the veterans and their families, and provide a place that is centrally located, honorable, and well maintained. HB 208 seeks to establish a state cemetery that will be modeled similar to the Fort Richardson and Sitka National Cemeteries. It will provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid with full military funeral honors, pallbearers, rifle team, flag folding, and flag presentation.

HB 208 authorizes the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain an Alaskan veterans cemetery with funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Cemetery Grants Program. Through the State Cemetery Grants Program, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs can be awarded up to 100 percent of the development costs for an approved project.

To date, the VA has awarded 137 grants totaling more than \$209 million to establish, expand or improve 62 veterans cemeteries in 32 states plus Guam. Fifty-six cemeteries in 29 states and Guam are now operational.

I urge your support on this legislation.

There are two types of veterans' license plates (General Veterans' Plates & Veterans' Commemorative Plates) that are being sold by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Veterans' Commemorative Plates: These special request civilian license plates were created by the passage of Senate Bill 146 in 2004. They are sold for a one-time \$100 fee with a biennial renewal fee of \$35. The monies generated from the sale of the commemorative plates are earmarked for state programs supporting Alaska's veterans. To date, the money generated has gone into the general fund. Other license plates under this umbrella category are the University, Dog Mushing, Alaska Children's Trust, or the Arts Commemorating license plates. To date, there are no production designs for the Dog Mushing or the Arts Commemorating license plates.

Commemorative Veterans' Plates: FY 04

- FY2004 \$200

Commemorative Veterans' Plates: FY 05 (collections through January 05)

- FY2005 \$800

The Alaska Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can request to use this money to use for veterans' programs, but to date has not done so. Currently, the monies collected from these plates have gone into the general fund. Once they go in the general fund they become a very small portion of the \$2 billion plus GF pot. HB 208 seeks to use these funds to help pay for the annual operation costs for maintaining the veterans cemetery.

General Veterans' Plates: These plates were created in 1998 and can only be sold to veterans of military service. They are sold for \$30 with a biennial renewal fee of \$35. Also included under this umbrella category are the Recipients of the Purple Heart, Alaska National Guard Personnel, and the Pearl Harbor license plates.



Alaska State Legislature

Representative David Guttenberg

<http://guttenberg.akdemocrats.org>

Representative David Guttenberg

Telephone: 907-465-4457

Fax: 907-465-3519

Year Round from Fairbanks: 456-8172

Toll Free from Denali Borough: 1-800-928-4457

guttenberg@akdemocrats.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • March 7, 2005

Guttenberg Files Bill For Veterans' Cemetery

Bill establishes burial ground in Interior Alaska

JUNEAU - Representative David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks, introduced a bill today to establish a state veterans' cemetery in the Interior.

"Forty percent of families in the Fairbanks area have at least one veteran in their household and 16 percent have at least one woman in the household who is a veteran," Representative Guttenberg said. "Alaska Natives have the highest per capita service record of any ethnic group in the country. Alaskan veterans deserve a cemetery that is located in the Interior that honors their service. Their sacrifices while serving our country, often in less-than-comfortable conditions and many times in harm's way, should be recognized."

Representative Guttenberg's bill establishes a state cemetery similar to the Fort Richardson and Sitka National Cemeteries. It will provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid to rest with full military funeral honors, pallbearers, rifle team, flag folding, and flag presentation.

House Bill 208 authorizes the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain an Alaskan veterans cemetery with funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' State Cemetery Grants Program. Through the State Cemetery Grants Program, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs can be awarded up to 100 percent of the development costs for an approved project.

###

• http://www.akdemocrats.org/Documents/030705_guttenberg_dignified_veterans_resting_place.pdf

• Additional information: [Representative David Guttenberg](#)

Print Forward this page

Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2005

Danielle Brown

From: Jayne, Bill [bill.jayne@mail.va.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2004 7:16 AM
To: Danielle Brown
Subject: Fairbanks cemetery estimates
Attachments: Fairbanks.xls

Danielle,

I've attached a spreadsheet that uses a standard model to project the size site that would be needed and the approximate cost of operating the cemetery. The standard model didn't work very well in this case so I made some adjustments. First of all, I used a larger usage rate factor than normal (see footnote #1 on the spreadsheet titled "Fairbanks Veterans Cemetery Worksheet"). Secondly, I increased the size of the site needed. I think a 20-acre site would be ample but less might make it difficult to develop the cemetery in an appropriate fashion. This number is extremely variable. A site with excellent characteristics such as easily developed land (lack of slopes, rock, water), good road access, etc., might allow a smaller acreage factor. In addition, the high cremation rate in Alaska might allow us to design an appropriate cemetery on a smaller site. For purposes of initial site search, however, I think it would be safe to start looking for a 20-acre site. The most significant cost factor is personnel. My model (which is somewhat "inflated" for the reasons discussed above) forecasts just 1.41 full-time equivalent employees. I used two employees just to make sure we're not understating the operational and maintenance cost. With all that being said, I'm confident that the State of Alaska could operate and maintain an appropriate veterans cemetery in Fairbanks for less than \$100,000 per year.

Please don't hesitate to call on me for any questions you may have. I'm also available to help with site selection and explaining the grants program.

Bill Jayne

Director, State Cemetery Grants Service (41E)
National Cemetery Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 565-6152
State Cemetery Grants Program

FAIRBANKS VETERANS CEMETERY WORKSHEET OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS¹

Demographic Factors	Data	Notes
Veterans in four areas	11,164	Fairbanks/North Star and 3 adjoining areas
Avg. annual death rate	149	2005-2026 VA figures
Usage factor	0.50 ¹	50% of veterans will use cemetery
Dependents factor	1.50	1 dependent per 2 veterans
Annual burial rate	112	[Death rate x usage] x dependents factor
Graves per acre (gross)	600	Rule of thumb
Min. gravesites needed (20 yr.)	1,676	[Annual burials x 0.75] x 20
Min. burial acreage needed	2.79	One of four is a "second interment"
Gross acreage recommended	20.00 ²	Min. gravesites/600 see note below
Personnel Factors	Data	
Admn. Workers (230 inter. Per FTE)	0.49	Based on NCA estimates
Field workers		Cumulative
Interments (250 per FTE)	0.45	Includes PT, temp., etc.
Gravesites (7,844.4 per FTE)	0.21	Rises over time
Acres Maint. (10.7 per FTE)	0.26	Burial acres used/developed acres may vary
Field Workers Subtotal	0.92	
Employees	1.41	Admn. & field workers
Cem. Director		NCA Costs
(GS 9--\$36.7 x 1.3 for fringes)	\$47,652.80	1.0 Full Time Equivalent Employee (FTEE)
Equip. Operator		
(WG-8--\$28 x 1.3)	\$36,142.60	1.0 FTEE
Total Salary	\$83,795.40	
Operations Factors	Data	
Utilities & communications	\$1,117.50	Phone, water, electricity, gas (\$400 x acres)
Supplies & materials	\$2,095.31	Fuel, fertilizer, etc. (\$750 x acres)
Contractual services	\$1,187.34	Janitorial, security, irrigation (\$425 x acres)
Subtotal	\$4,400.16	
Total Annual Operations \$88,195.56		
<i>Maintenance and Repairs</i>	<i>extra</i>	
<i>Equipment Replacement</i>	<i>extra</i>	

¹ The standard usage factor is 25% but we have increased the factor to 50% in this case because of the difficulty in projecting usage in this area. While 50% usage may be high, it would be better to estimate a higher number at this point rather than a lower number.

² The model assumes a suitable site with easily developed cemetery land. In this case, it would be better to acquire as large a parcel as possible in order to assure suitable land and the ability to buffer surrounding land uses. At least 20 acres should be considered.

Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration

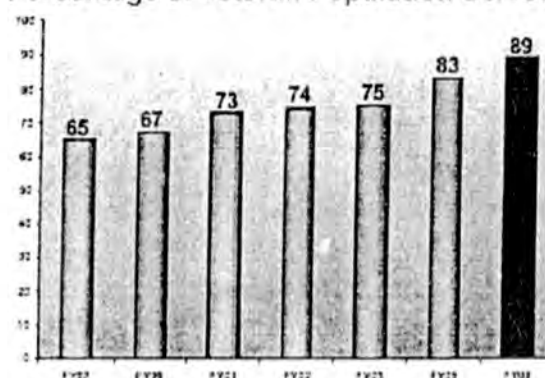
Communications & Outreach Support
Washington, DC

NATIONAL CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT

One of the National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) goals is to provide eligible veterans reasonable access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) burial options. Experience and recent historical data show that over 80 percent of persons interred in national cemeteries resided within 75 miles of the cemetery at time of death. NCA considers reasonable access to burial benefits to mean that a first interment option, for casketed or cremated remains in a national or state veterans cemetery, is available within 75 miles of the veteran's place of residence.

To meet the burial needs of veterans, NCA builds new national cemeteries in areas where veterans do not have reasonable access to burial options. NCA also manages the State Cemetery Grants Program that encourages states to build state veterans cemeteries in areas unserved by a national veterans cemetery. The percentage of veterans with reasonable access to burial benefits has increased from 65 percent in 1995 to 75 percent today. By 2009, 89 percent of veterans will have reasonable access to a national or state veterans cemetery.

Percentage of Veteran Population Served



Population within 75 miles of a national cemetery or state veterans cemetery

NCA has built six new national cemeteries since 1997 and is currently directed to build 11 new national cemeteries to serve veterans. NCA also seeks to increase the long-term burial capacity of current national cemeteries by acquiring adjacent land, building columbaria where feasible and using innovative designs that maximize the burial space available.

NCA follows a 6-step process to build a new national cemetery: site selection; environmental assessment; land acquisition; master planning and design development; construction documents preparation; and construction award and completion.

Site Selection

NCA identifies a geographic area with a large veteran population that is unserved by a

national or state veterans cemetery. The cemetery size and number of gravesites are determined by current and future demographic forecasts. NCA canvases the local area for sites of the size needed to meet demographic forecasts. These sites are evaluated for their suitability for cemetery development and the top two to five sites advance to the next step in the process.

Environmental Assessment

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the top sites are assessed to determine the impact of cemetery development and operations on the environment. An Environmental Assessment document is prepared, identifying the VA preferred site. The site's assessment must result in a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) in order to be considered for acquisition. If the NEPA evaluation results in a FONSI, then NCA makes the results available to the general public for a 30-day comment period. After the comment period, NCA makes a final recommendation to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who decides whether to purchase the property.

Land Acquisition

In some instances, land is donated to VA. Federal and state lands have also been transferred to VA at no cost to establish some national cemeteries. Otherwise, land is purchased at the fair market value established by a real property appraisal. Before the final sales contract is signed, the Department of Justice, acting on behalf of VA, reviews all documents to ensure that the contract and title meet all the requirements for a legal transfer of ownership.

Master Planning and Design Development

Once VA takes title to the land, bids are solicited from architectural and engineering (A/E) firms. NCA selects an A/E firm and a contract is negotiated with the firm to design the new cemetery. A master plan for developing all phases of the cemetery on the entire site is prepared, followed by more detailed design development for the first phase of construction. The first phase usually includes the first active burial section and the requisite infrastructure to operate the cemetery. Subsequent phases generally include new burial sections and associated infrastructure in the new section. Typically, each phase of construction is designed to provide sufficient burial space to last 10 years.

Construction Document Preparation

Under a second negotiated contract, the A/E prepares plans and specifications that detail all aspects of phase one construction: active burial sections, administrative buildings, maintenance buildings, public information center, committal shelters, roads and other infrastructure. These documents provide the basis for contractors to bid on constructing the project.

Construction Award and Completion

Finally, NCA solicits bids and awards a contract for construction of the new cemetery. The bid and award process takes about three months; actual construction of phase one takes about 24 months.

Funds approved by Congress must be available in order to complete the various steps. Land purchases and construction require multiple appropriations, over several years of budgets, to complete each phase. Site selection, NEPA compliance, master planning, design and phase one construction require more than five years to complete.



Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances

What Is A VA Burial Allowance ?

A VA burial allowance is a partial reimbursement of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

Who Is Eligible ?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- ✧ you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral **AND**
- ✧ you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer **AND**
- ✧ the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- ✧ the veteran died because of a service-related disability **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay **OR**
- ✧ the veteran died in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay ?

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$1,500 toward burial expenses for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. For deaths on or after September 11, 2001, VA will pay \$2,000. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the deceased may be reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$150 plot interment allowance for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$300 for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the deceased's remains may be reimbursed.

How Can You Apply ?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Allowance. You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid.

Related Benefits

Burial in VA National Cemeteries
Presidential Memorial Certificates

Headstones and Markers
Burial Flags

For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000
Or Visit Our Web Site At <http://www.cem.va.gov>



Burial & Memorial Benefits

Veterans Benefits & Services

*State will mirror
the National requirements*

NCA Home Page

"A Sacred Trust"

Nationwide Gravesite
Locator

What's New

About NCA

History

National Cemetery
Web Pages

Cemeteries

Burial Benefits

Headstones and
Markers

Presidential Memorial
Certificates

Military Funeral
Honors

State Cemetery Grants
Program

Obtaining Military
Records & Medals

Office of Construction
Management

FAQs

Site Map

Burial Benefits Eligibility

To confirm your eligibility for burial benefits, please
call a Veteran's Benefits Counselor at:

1-800-827-1000

Persons Eligible for Burial in a VA National Cemetery

VA national cemetery directors have the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is usually made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA Regional Offices will also assist in determining eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. The toll-free number for the nearest VA Regional Office is 1-800-827-1000.

a. Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)

(1) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

(2) Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist called to active duty for a limited duration). Undesirable, bad conduct, and any



other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for veterans benefits, depending upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office.

(3) Any citizen of the United States who, during any war in which the United States has or may be engaged, served in the Armed Forces of any Government allied with the United States during that war, whose last active service was terminated honorably by death or otherwise, and who was a citizen of the United States at the time of entry into such service and at the time of death.

b. Members of Reserve Components and Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(1) Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.

(2) Members of reserve components, and members of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, who die while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training, or undergoing such hospitalization or treatment.

(3) Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force who die under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, while performing authorized travel to or from that camp or cruise, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while engaged in one of those activities.

(4) Members of reserve components who, during a period of active duty for training, were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or, during a period of inactive duty

training, were disabled or died from an injury or certain cardiovascular disorders incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

c. Commissioned Officers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly titled the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Environmental Science Services Administration) with full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945.

(2) A Commissioned Officer who served before July 29, 1945, and,

(a) Was assigned to an area of immediate military hazard as determined by the Secretary of Defense while in time of war, or in a Presidentially declared national emergency; or,

(b) Served in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continuously in such islands thereafter.

d. Public Health Service

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who served on full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945. If the service of the particular Public Health Service Officer falls within the meaning of active duty for training, as defined in section 101(22), title 38, United States Code, he or she must have been disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

(2) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who performed full-time duty prior to July 29, 1945:

(a) In time of war;

(b) On detail for duty with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; or,

(c) While the Service was part of the military forces of the United States pursuant to Executive Order of the President.

(3) A Commissioned Officer serving on inactive duty training as defined in section 101(23), title 38, United States Code, whose death resulted from an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

e. World War II Merchant Mariners

(1) United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 105-368, United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, were eligible. With enactment of Public Law 105-368, the service period is extended to December 31, 1946, for those dying on or after November 11, 1998. A DD-214 documenting this service may be obtained by submitting an application to Commandant (G-MVP-6), United States Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593. Notwithstanding, the Mariner's death must have occurred on or after the enactment of Public Law 105-368.

(2) United States Merchant Mariners who served on blockships in support of Operation Mulberry during World War II.

f. The Philippine Armed Forces

(1) Any Philippine veteran who was a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States at the time of their death; and resided in the United States at the time of their death; and,

(a) Was a person who served before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including organized guerilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States, and who died on or after November 1, 2000; or,

(b) Was a person who enlisted between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, with the Armed Forces of the United States with the consent of the Philippine government, pursuant to section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945, and who died on or after December 16, 2003.

g. Spouses and Dependents

(1) The spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran is eligible for interment in a national cemetery even if that veteran is not buried or memorialized in a national cemetery. In addition, the spouse or surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States whose remains are unavailable for burial is also eligible for burial.

(2) The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who had a subsequent remarriage to a non-veteran and whose death occurred on or after January 1, 2000, is eligible for burial in a national cemetery, based on his or her marriage to the eligible veteran.

(3) The minor children of an eligible veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, a minor child is a child who is unmarried and:

(a) Who is under 21 years of age; or,

(b) Who is under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

(4) The unmarried adult child of an eligible veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, an unmarried adult child is:

Of any age but became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution. Proper supporting documentation must be provided.

g. Others

Such other persons or classes of persons as designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. § 2402(6)) or the Secretary of Defense (Public Law 95-202, § 401, and 38 CFR § 3.7(x)).

Persons NOT Eligible for Burial in a VA National Cemetery

a. Former Spouses

A former spouse of an eligible individual whose marriage to that individual has been terminated by annulment or divorce, if not otherwise eligible.

b. Other Family Members

Family members of an eligible person except those defined as eligible in Section III, paragraph g.

c. Disqualifying Characters of Discharge

A person whose only separation from the Armed Forces was under dishonorable conditions or whose character of service results in a bar to veterans benefits.

d. Discharge from Draft

A person who was ordered to report to an induction station, but was not actually inducted into military service.

e. Person Found Guilty of a Capital Crime

Under 38 U.S.C. § 2411, interment or memorialization in a VA cemetery or in Arlington National Cemetery is prohibited if a person is convicted of a Federal capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, or is convicted of a State capital crime, and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole. Federal officials are authorized to deny burial in veterans cemeteries to persons who are shown by clear and convincing evidence to have committed a Federal or State capital crime but were not convicted of such crime because of flight to avoid prosecution or by death prior to trial. The Secretary is authorized to provide aid to States for the establishment, expansion and/or improvement of veterans cemeteries on the condition that the State is willing to prohibit

interment or memorialization in such cemeteries of individuals convicted of Federal or State capital crimes, or found by clear and convincing evidence to have committed such crimes, without having been convicted of the crimes due to flight to avoid prosecution or death prior to trial. (38 U.S.C. § 2408 (d)(2)). This prohibition is also extended to other burial benefits, including furnishing a Presidential Memorial Certificate, a burial flag, or a headstone or marker.

f. Subversive Activities

Any person convicted of subversive activities after September 1, 1959, shall have no right to burial in a national cemetery from and after the date of commission of such offense, based on periods of active military service commencing before the date of the commission of such offense, nor shall another person be entitled to burial on account of such an individual. Eligibility will be reinstated if the President of the United States grants a pardon.

g. Active or Inactive Duty for Training

A person whose only service is active duty for training or inactive duty training in the National Guard or Reserve Component, unless the individual meets the eligibility criteria listed in Section III.1.b. of this information sheet.

h. Other Groups

Members of groups whose service has been determined by the Secretary of the Air Force under the provisions of Public Law 95-202 as not warranting entitlement to benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

roduced:
Adopted:

MARK BARTOS
03/24/05
03/24/05

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 15

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY IN THE INTERIOR THROUGH LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES AN ALASKAN VETERANS CEMETERY WITH FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) STATE CEMETERY GRANTS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Alaskan veterans deserve a cemetery that is located in the Interior that honors their service; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration, Alaska has more residents in the military on a per-capita basis than any other state. There are approximately 11,164 veterans living in the Fairbanks North Star Borough; and

WHEREAS, the nearest officially designated military cemetery is located in Anchorage at Fort Richardson Army base; and

WHEREAS, the VA National Cemetery Administration follows a 6-step process to build a new state veterans cemetery: site selection; environmental assessment; land acquisition; master planning and design development; construction documents preparation; and construction award and completion; and

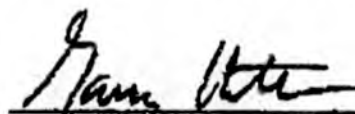
WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs can be awarded up to 100 percent of the development costs from the VA State Cemetery Grants Program for an approved project and the VA has awarded 137 grants to establish and improve veterans cemeteries around the country; and

WHEREAS, a State Veterans' Cemetery in the Interior would better serve needs of the veterans and their families, and provide a place that is centrally located, honorable, and would provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid with full military funeral honors, palibearers, rifle team, flag folding, and flag presentation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly supports the creation of a State Veterans' Cemetery in the Interior and recognizes veterans' sacrifices while serving our country.

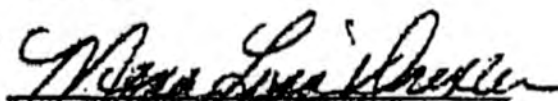
46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be
47 forwarded to The Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski, the Alaska Interior Delegation,
48 members of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Major General Craig E.
49 Campbell Adjutant General/Commissioner, Military and Veterans Affairs, The Honorable
50 Senator Ted Stevens, the Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Honorable
51 Congressman Don Young.

52 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH 2005.
53
54



Garry Hutchison
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, GMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

55
56
57

Ayes: Romans, Bartos, Sattley, Rex, Williams, Hopkins, Aldridge, Frank, Hutchison
Noes: None

REP. DAVID GUTTENBERG

119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 211

FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

(907) 451-9293 (FAX)

RE: HB 208 STATE VET CEMETERY

DEAR REP GUTTENBERG

DAVID

I Am IN Support of HB 208.

IT'S TIME IS OVERDUE. BOTH

FT RICH & SIKKA'S MILITARY

CEMETERIES ARE TOO FAR

AWAY FOR INTERIOR VETERANS

USE. MY CONCERNS ABOUT

CEMETERY

MAINTENANCE OF COMPLETED CHAIR

PROB ADDRESSED. COPY

HOUSE BILL NO. 208

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG

Introduced: 3/7/05

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and
2 maintain an Alaskan veterans' cemetery; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery
3 fund in the general fund."

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

5 * Section 1. AS 28.10.421(d)(16) is amended to read:

6 (16) special request plates commemorating Alaska veterans \$100
7 plus a fee of \$35 and the fee required for that vehicle under (b)(1) or (2) of this
8 section; the \$100 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first
9 issuance of and the replacement of the commemorative veterans' plates; the \$35 fee
10 required by this paragraph shall be collected biennially in the same manner as the fee
11 required under (b)(1) or (2) of this section; the commissioner of administration shall
12 separately account for the fees received under this paragraph that the department
13 deposits in the general fund; notwithstanding (g) of this section, the annual estimated
14 balance in the account that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request plates may

1 be appropriated by the legislature to the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund created
 2 under AS 37.05.590 [FOR THE SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS BENEFITING
 3 ALASKA VETERANS].

4 * Sec. 2. AS 37.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 6 to read:

5 **Sec. 37.05.590. Alaska veterans' cemetery fund.** (a) There is created as a
 6 special account in the general fund the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund into which
 7 shall be deposited appropriations to the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund.

8 (b) Beginning with the appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
 9 2005, on an annual basis and under AS 37.07 (Executive Budget Act), the legislature
 10 may appropriate amounts from the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund to the Department
 11 of Military and Veterans' Affairs for the construction, operation, and maintenance of
 12 the Alaska veterans' cemetery established under AS 44.35.035.

13 (c) Appropriations to the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund are not one-year
 14 appropriations and do not lapse under AS 37.25.010.

15 (d) The unexpended and unobligated balance of an appropriation from the
 16 Alaska veterans' cemetery fund lapses into the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund at the
 17 end of the fiscal year for which it was appropriated.

18 (e) Nothing in this section exempts money deposited into the Alaska veterans'
 19 cemetery fund from the requirements of AS 37.07 (Executive Budget Act) or dedicates
 20 that money for a specific purpose.

21 * Sec. 3. AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 **Sec. 44.35.035. Alaska veterans' cemetery.** (a) The department shall
 23 establish and maintain ~~an~~ Alaska veterans' cemetery ^{in Fairbanks} ^{on any other} to serve state
 24 veterans and spouses and eligible dependents of state veterans. ^

25 (b) The department may accept gifts, donations, and grants, including land,
 26 under AS 26.10.030 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the Alaska
 27 veterans' cemetery. Land received by the department for the Alaska veterans'
 28 cemetery shall be owned by the state.

29 (c) The department shall

30 (1) adopt regulations for determining individuals eligible for burial in
 31 the Alaska veterans' cemetery;

1 (2) receive the plot or interment allowance on behalf of the state under
2 38 U.S.C. 2303;

3 (3) comply with all requirements for a state veterans' cemetery grant
4 established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under 38 U.S.C.
5 2408; and

6 (4) apply to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for state
7 veterans' cemetery grants under 38 U.S.C. 2408.

8 (d) The department may

9 (1) adopt regulations necessary to administer the Alaska veterans'
10 cemetery;

11 (2) enter into agreements for the maintenance and operation of the
12 Alaska veterans' cemetery with political subdivisions of the Alaska and other persons;
13 and

14 (3) solicit gifts, donations, and grants in addition to the state veterans'
15 cemetery grants in (c) of this section that may be designated for the establishment and
16 maintenance of the Alaska veterans' cemetery and received by the department under
17 AS 26.10.030.

18 (e) In this section, "department" means the Department of Military and
19 Veterans' Affairs.



The Interior needs its own state veterans cemetery

By REP. DAVID GUTTENBERG

Alaska is a great place to live. The vast mountainous landscape and potential for adventure and exploration has drawn people from all walks of life, including a large resident population of military veterans. According to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has approximately 11,164 veterans.

With so many veterans in the Fairbanks area, the creation of a state veterans' cemetery in the Interior would better serve the needs of veterans and their families, as well as provide a respectable place that is centrally located and well maintained.

The Interior region qualifies for a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Cemetery Grants Program to establish a state veterans cemetery. This federal grant would

provide 100 percent of the design and construction costs, which is a wonderful opportunity for the Interior veteran residents. Once established, the Alaska Military and Veterans Affairs would maintain and operate the cemetery similar to the two national cemeteries at Fort Richardson in Anchorage and Sitka.

From Fairbanks, the nearest military cemetery is a six to seven hour, 360-mile drive to Anchorage at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery. I would think you would agree with me that such a drive is unreasonable, especially during the winter months.

There is no reason that friends and families of veterans should be burdened with such a long drive to pay their respects especially when the region qualifies for a federal grant to construct a state veterans cemetery and that is why I spon-

sored HB 208, "a bill that establishes a state veterans cemetery in the Interior".

For more information about HB 208, or any other bills or issues of concern, I want to make sure it is easy to contact me. Your letters, faxes, and emails are always welcome. My address is Rep David Guttenberg, State Capitol Room 13, Juneau AK 99801. My fax number is (907) 465-3519. You can also reach me by e-mail anytime at Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us. In addition, I would be happy to add you to my e-mail list to give you updates on issues that you care about.

Rep. David Guttenberg is a Democrat and represents district 8 Fairbanks and Denali Borough in the Alaska State House.

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By: Luke Hopkins
Hank Bartos
Introduced: 03/24/05
Adopted: 03/24/05

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 15

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY IN THE INTERIOR THROUGH LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES AN ALASKAN VETERANS CEMETERY WITH FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) STATE CEMETERY GRANTS PROGRAM.

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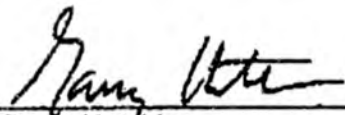
WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs can be awarded up to 100 percent of the development costs from the VA State Cemetery Grants Program for an approved project and the VA has awarded 137 grants to establish and improve veterans cemeteries around the country; and

WHEREAS, a State Veterans' Cemetery in the Interior would better serve needs of the veterans and their families, and provide a place that is centrally located, honorable, and would provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid with full military funeral honors, pallbearers, rifle team, flag folding, and flag presentation; and

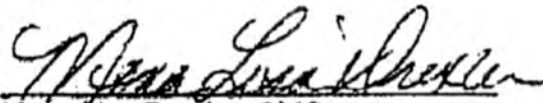
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly supports the creation of a State Veterans' Cemetery in the Interior and recognizes veterans' sacrifices while serving our country.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be
47 forwarded to The Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski, the Alaska Interior Delegation,
48 members of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Major General Craig E.
49 Campbell Adjutant General/Commissioner, Military and Veterans Affairs, The Honorable
50 Senator Ted Stevens, the Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Honorable
51 Congressman Don Young.

52
53 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH 2005.
54


Garry Hutchison
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

55
56 Ayes: Romans, Bartos, Sattley, Rex, Williams, Hopkins, Aldridge, Frank, Hutchison
57 Noes: None

-Original Message-----

From: Jayne, Bill [<mailto:bill.jayne@va.gov>]

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 12:55 PM

To: Danielle Brown

Subject: RE: Ft. Wainwright

Danielle,

The State Cemetery Grants Program in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is able to provide grants to states to establish, expand and improve state-owned and state-operated veterans cemeteries. Current law authorizes us to provide 100 percent of allowable costs for design, construction and operating equipment in the case of a grant to establish a new cemetery. The state is entirely responsible for the land and for operations and maintenance.

VA's long-term goal is to provide an operational veterans' cemetery- either a national or state facility-within 75 miles of 90 percent of the veterans in the country. Ft. Richardson National Cemetery, located 350 miles away in Anchorage, is the nearest veterans' cemetery to Fairbanks. According to VA's criterion, a cemetery in Fairbanks would increase the number of veterans served by a veterans' cemetery.

Bill Jayne

Bill Jayne

Director, State Cemetery Grants Service (41E) National Cemetery
Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Washington, DC 20420
(202) 565-6152
State Cemetery Grants Program



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Representative Lynn, Chair	Lorice/Lbx LIO
COMPANY:	DATE:
House Military & Veterans Affairs	3/31/2005
FAX NUMBER:	
465-4316	
PHONE NUMBER:	FAXED ON:
465-4931	3/31/2005
RE:	TELECONFERENCE ON:
Written Comments on Reg Review	3/31/2005

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Enclosed, please find the originals of the written testimony. Please distribute to committee members.

PHONE: 459-4448

FAX: 156-3346

31 March 2005

HIB 208

Hello, my name is Joyce D. Brownlow and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 208 that would authorize the establishment and maintenance of an Alaskan veteran's cemetery.

There are over 11,000 veterans living in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, with gathered statistics stating that 40% of families in the Fairbanks area have at least one veteran in their household and with women veterans at 16%, I feel that this bill underlines and signifies dramatically the importance, that we as citizens of this "Golden Heart" city and borough, should be addressing.

I attended a meeting yesterday where Billie Blanchard explained the formation of Project; Partnership. This partnership as outlined provides for an opportunity for area businesses and organizations to support our military members and their families during the upcoming Army deployments. This partnership will not only show appreciation to our area soldiers defending our freedoms, but will bring the community together to help the family members left behind. What a concept and I feel strongly that this project will be fully embraced by our wonderful communities.

Now then, what about the soldiers who are now called veterans? The ones who have served and are residing within our community -- therefore 11,000 former soldiers deserve our attention; but more importantly deserve a respectful and honorable cemetery. Many members of my family are buried in Veterans cemeteries, notably Willamette National and Roseburg Veterans in Oregon. A visit each year to them brings a renewed conviction that patriotism is very complicated feeling, but a necessary ingredient in the treatment of our honored veterans.

Creation of the cemetery will be financed by a grant from the VA with maintenance in the amount of \$80,000 to be borne by the State. Two employees and one director would be funded inside this amount; and unlike Birch Hill, the cemetery will be not need citizen assistance for upkeep. The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs can request to use money from the sale of Veterans Commemorative license plates for veterans programs, but it is my understanding that to date **has not done so**. Currently, the money collected has gone into the State's general fund, and this unused money could be available to help pay for the annual operational costs for maintaining the veterans cemetery.

Another question is the Birch Hill Cemetery and the 60 spaces that are available for veteran burial. The Veterans Administration has estimated 112 deaths annually in our area, so Birch Hill could reach its capacity within a year's period.

As Alaska have more residents in the military on a per-capita basis than any other state in the nation and Fairbanks North Star Borough has over 11,000 veterans, the Interior would greatly benefit with a Veterans Cemetery. It would give comfort and solace to friend and families of our veterans and establish a well-maintained cemetery that would provide a final resting place for our revered veterans.

This is an emotional issue, but should be bi-partisan for the benefit of our veterans and therefore I urge passage of House Bill 208 for the convenience of our Veterans and their families.

Joyce Roethler
505 Juneau Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-456-4539 or 907-322-1566

March 22, 2005

To: The Legislators of the State of Alaska

From: Joyce Roethler

RE: State Cemetery Legislation

Recently, I was contacted by State Representative David Guttentburg's office concerning the possibility of a State Veteran's Cemetery in Fairbanks for the veteran's who live in the Interior of Alaska.

Two years ago I became a widow of a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. We knew for some time before his death that our battle was not one we were going to win in the long haul but the previous seven years had taught both of us many lessons. One of the most important was that of looking after others who are less fortunate than you and looking after our veteran's, who many times, fall through the cracks in the system.

In 1999 we were at the Birch Hill Cemetery visiting the first Mrs. Roethler's grave when the mortician there for a burial ask if we would assist in laying to rest a veteran. Only he and the grave diggers were there to honor him as he was laid in his final resting place.

Later in 1999 we visited the National Cemetery at Fort Richardson, Alaska and found a beautiful area. On the way home as we drove up the Parks Highway we discussed the problems that effects many veterans and their families in Alaska, a major one is distance. On a good day with good driving conditions and a good vehicle it is at least a six (6) hour drive one way. For many of our older veterans and their families this is much to long a drive to complete the roundtrip in the same day. Thus an overnight in the Anchorage area is necessary.

For some the importance of being at the internment of family as well as being able to visit a loved ones final resting place is a major part of the grieving for that loved one. For others being able to bring flowers of remembrance and recognize the significance of that person on their lives is critical.

After September 11, 2001 another factor came into play and that was the problem of the Fort Richardson National Veteran's Cemetery being on the base and therefore within a secured area. For the retirees and their families with military identification cards, civil servants with identification cards and active duty personnel access to this

hallowed ground is not a problem. For all others the gate is closed without much effort in arranging a visit.

Currently, we have about 180 graves set aside for veterans in the Interior. The first 100 are at the Northern Lights Cemetery here in Fairbanks. The cost of a plot there is approximately \$3,000. Not realistic for many veterans. The other 80 are at the Birch Hill Cemetery. There are two sections there for veterans, one for members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the other for members of the American Legion. Currently this area is almost totally filled and the city has graciously set aside another 72 graves for veterans. These graves are \$350.00 each plus the opening of the grave. This cemetery has very little maintenance other than the efforts of local veterans organizations whereas the Northern Lights Cemetery is a perpetual care facility.

Most recent demographics for the state population indicate that one in five families in Alaska are in some manner military (veteran) or military (veteran) affiliated. The current estimate for the interior is over 30,000 veterans and climbing in addition to their families. Some of these veterans have sufficient family and funds to assure the proper internment they have earned by merit of their service to this nation. Others are alone and often buried with little else save a mortician and gravediggers.

Other veterans, the homeless ones who live where ever they can manage to survive, many times have no one to care and only themselves to depend on. At the present time there are veteran's graves on Birch Hill with no markers, there are graves in the Clay Street Cemetery, long closed and full, of veterans whose families have been gone many many years.

When a man or woman serves this country they are told they will be placed to rest in a veteran's cemetery, especially if there is no place else for them to be buried. Obviously, no one is going to pay the bill to drive them to Fort Richardson. But for those here in the Interior that's exactly what this means. This is a burden on family and friends that should not be part of the loss they have suffered.

The Interior of Alaska has a burial period of less than six (6) months a year. During the rest of the year the cemeteries are closed. Bodies are placed in cold storage until spring or cremated. Cremation is the answer for some. Some of those ashes are scattered. Some the family wants interred so they have a place for them to rest. Properly fenced and gated security should be minimal problem with most VA headstones being set flat. Mowing and maintenance would be at most the same period of time with the short summer season of the Interior of Alaska.

The concern of others wanting state cemeteries for their communities is a real concern but in looking at the facts we must realize that the Fort Richardson National Cemetery will never be adequate for all the veterans of Alaska for ever. With the realistic placement of controls on eligibility this can be controlled.

All the men and women of Alaska who have served this country deserve a decent place to be laid to rest at the end of their days. Not a pauper's grave with no headstone, but with the honors due them for the service they have given. They should never have to question the playing of Taps nor the erection of a marker nor if a chaplain will say a few words over them. They should never question weeds marking their grave because no one cares that they rest there.

Alaska's Interior contains a very large populace of veterans, many of whom live in the bush or the rural communities of Alaska. They come to Fairbanks on a regular basis for supplies, medical appointments and care, education, business, etc. This is the hub of the Interior and therefore a logical place for a State Veteran's Cemetery.

As a veteran speaking for other veterans it is important to say that we must recognize the need for the care of the living veterans but we must not forget those who have paid the ultimate price for us with their lives. We continue to have wars and we continue to be touched by those who serve. Not all veterans die on the battlefield. For some death comes a thousand times a night for the rest of their lives. Do we owe them less than to promise them a place to rest in peace?

HONOR THEM—THEY PAID THE DUES FOR YOU!!!

Joyce Roethler

SCOMM

139:11



REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us webpage: www.akrebublicans.org/thomas/

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-461-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

Date: 3-22-05

To: Representative Lynn, Chair House Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee

From: Representative Thomas

Re: HB 212 An Act relating to exemptions from municipal property taxes for certain primary residences; and providing for an effective date.

I request that the House Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee hear HB 212 at its earliest convenience.

HB 212 will remove the unfunded mandate that the state has placed on municipalities to provide a property tax exemption.

Enclosed you will find a sponsor statement, the original bill, and backup materials. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Joe Campbell

Totally disagree with HB 212

His opinion on it. Under title 28 the state statute on it. Allow disabled vets and people who are older than 65 years of age. 150,000 tax exemption. Suppose to be reimbursed by the legislators and hasn't been since about the late 80's.

Concerns are that HB 212

His thoughts on this it is a requirement in state statute that it would allow the municipalities to decide who is exempt from taxation on real property.

- under state statute allows disabled vets, 65 years old or widowers to qualify for 150,000 tax exemptions.
- He believes that everything is still in effect
- Section 5 "may" by ordinance - (striking approved by the voters") can - the wording that is being struck "approved by the voters" bothers him. And, I can see allowing for an exemption up to 150,000 and what bothers me is a fact

Comment made the bill was just to get people thinking. The state can't afford to supplement everyone's income. I'm of the thought sure - where the state cannot absorb these kinds of cuts. There is a lot of people who are staying in Alaska just to these kind of exemptions. If I'm going to start losing more and more of my benefits - Nevada is looking awfully darn good.

We are going to have to start a start date but two years may not be enough of a time to start making plans -

If we are going to do this and we are going to stop it then we stop it for everybody. We are making two classes of citizens. I don't think 10 years is too far in advance to start thinking about your retirement. To start it at two years is too quick. If you are going to phase it out, step it out - every two years.

Grandfathered in...

Look at those people who are going to be impacted the most...

125,000

100,000

75,000

50,000

25,000

-0-



REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us webpage: www.akrebublicans.org/thomas/

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-461-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

Date: 3-22-05

To: Representative Lynn, Chair House Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee

From: Representative Thomas

Re: Sponsor Statement for HB 212 An Act relating to exemptions from municipal property taxes for certain primary residences; and providing for an effective date.

Currently, state law exempts real property owned and occupied as a permanent residence by a person who is 65 years of age or older, or, by a disabled veteran with a disability of 50% or more. These people are exempted from paying taxes to their municipality on the first \$150,000.00 of the assessed value of their property. The costs associated with this program have exceeded the funding levels from the state since 1986. Further, the Alaska Legislature has not funded the reimbursement for the program since 1997 (Tax Year 1996).

The lack of funding from the state has resulted in an unfunded mandate. The municipalities are required to give certain groups of people tax exemptions, yet there is no assistance from the state. With our municipalities in the dire situations that they are in today, they cannot afford to have yet another mandate placed on them which requires that they lose revenue. In the Haines Borough alone this has resulted in a \$184,000.00 loss in 2004. Statewide, this has resulted in a more than \$37,000,000.00 loss to our municipalities. (Alaska Taxable 2004, Department of Community Advocacy).

HB 212 allows the municipalities to choose whether or not to exempt seniors or disabled veterans. Further, if they elect to exempt these people, municipalities are then granted the authority to choose the level at which they are exempted. Where the state cannot fund its directives, it must allow the local governments the freedom to decide what is best for their regions. I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

TABLE 14 (A)

**SENIOR CITIZEN AND DISABLED VETERAN
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION HISTORY
AS 29.45.030(e) - (I)**

State law exempts real property owned and occupied as a permanent home by a resident, 65 years of age or older, or, by a disabled veteran with a 50% or greater service-connected disability. The exemption applies to the first \$150,000 of assessed valuation. Applicants must apply directly to their municipality. In 2002 legislation was passed which would allow municipalities to set its filing deadline. It also allows for a "one time filing" for the program. Program costs have exceeded funding levels from the state since 1983 resulting in prorating payments to eligible municipalities. The Alaska Legislature has not funded the reimbursement for the program since FY 1997, Tax Year 1996.

Ten Year Performance Summary

Tax Year	No. of Applications Approved	Total Exempt Assessed Value	Annual Value Percent Change	Total Exempt Taxes	Annual Tax Percent Change	Average Exempt Value \$\$ Per Appl.	Average Exempt Tax \$\$ Per Appl.
1994	12,199	\$1,064,556,490	8.71%	\$16,894,296	13.82%	\$87,266	\$1,385
1995	12,919	\$1,183,291,858	11.15%	\$18,636,513	10.31%	\$91,593	\$1,443
1996	13,692	\$1,293,232,403	9.29%	\$20,371,389	9.31%	\$94,452	\$1,488
1997	14,643	\$1,403,624,823	8.54%	\$22,317,994	9.56%	\$95,856	\$1,524
1998	15,143	\$1,544,691,456	10.05%	\$24,649,743	10.45%	\$102,007	\$1,628
1999	15,836	\$1,671,478,280	8.21%	\$26,694,955	8.30%	\$105,549	\$1,686
2000	16,656	\$1,798,704,610	7.61%	\$28,248,856	5.82%	\$107,991	\$1,696
2001	17,640	\$1,942,143,407	7.97%	\$31,076,097	10.01%	\$110,099	\$1,762
2002	18,435	\$2,115,394,523	8.92%	\$32,515,100	4.63%	\$114,749	\$1,764
2003	19,275	\$2,295,225,136	8.50%	\$34,663,161	6.61%	\$119,078	\$1,798
2004	20,057	\$2,453,661,658	6.90%	\$37,037,282	6.85%	\$122,334	\$1,847

TABLE 14 (B)

SENIOR CITIZEN AND DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

**Program Summary
FY 05/Tax Year 2004**

Municipality	Number of Applicants Approved	Total Assessed Value Exempt	% Value Inc./Dec. Over 2003	Total Tax Amount Exempt	% Tax Inc./Dec. Over 2003	Average Value Per Appl	Average Tax Per Appl
Municipality of Anchorage	8,847	\$1,172,960,066	5.27%	\$18,930,169	2.98%	\$132,583	\$2,140
Bristol Bay Borough	24	\$1,887,375	-4.69%	\$24,536	-4.69%	\$78,641	\$1,022
Fairbanks North Star Borough	2,677	\$296,426,365	10.68%	\$5,560,112	11.17%	\$110,731	\$2,077
Haines Borough	169	\$16,902,164	8.14%	\$184,000	1.67%	\$100,013	\$1,089
City & Borough of Juneau	1,079	\$147,351,300	5.24%	\$1,768,215	9.04%	\$136,563	\$1,639
Kenai Peninsula Borough	2,326	\$245,119,453	8.84%	\$2,824,440	10.18%	\$105,382	\$1,214
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	606	\$69,473,700	3.58%	\$864,595	7.75%	\$114,643	\$1,427
Kodiak Island Borough	282	\$31,395,990	4.31%	\$391,160	16.21%	\$111,333	\$1,387
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2,898	\$338,982,700	10.33%	\$5,196,599	15.00%	\$116,971	\$1,793
North Slope Borough	58	\$5,521,100	5.25%	\$102,969	5.76%	\$95,191	\$1,775
City & Borough of Sitka	412	\$52,839,335	8.31%	\$317,036	8.31%	\$128,251	\$770
City & Borough of Yakutat	21	\$1,451,950	0.04%	\$12,993	-0.53%	\$69,140	\$619
Cordova	74	\$8,473,810	1.77%	\$116,382	5.66%	\$114,511	\$1,573
Craig	29	\$2,661,900	11.32%	\$15,971	11.31%	\$91,790	\$551
Dillingham	33	\$3,839,500	-1.86%	\$49,914	15.99%	\$116,348	\$1,513
Nenana	24	\$886,759	2.00%	\$10,641	2.00%	\$36,948	\$443
Nome	90	\$8,858,362	17.29%	\$97,442	-0.76%	\$98,426	\$1,083
Pelican	6	\$591,700	38.09%	\$3,550	38.08%	\$98,617	\$592
Petersburg	139	\$17,907,400	-1.56%	\$183,193	-0.98%	\$128,830	\$1,318
Skagway	47	\$6,447,500	6.35%	\$44,995	18.93%	\$137,181	\$957
Unalaska	8	\$807,596	0.00%	\$9,514	0.00%	\$100,950	\$1,189
Valdez	57	\$7,482,980	5.35%	\$149,659	5.35%	\$131,280	\$2,626
Whittier	13	\$421,550	37.99%	\$2,108	38.00%	\$32,427	\$162
Wrangell	138	\$14,971,103	3.42%	\$177,088	3.43%	\$108,486	\$1,283
Totals	20,057	\$2,453,661,658	6.90%	\$37,037,281	6.85%	\$122,334	\$1,847

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:

Bill Version:

HB212

() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title An act relating to exemptions from municipal

property taxes for certain primary residents; and providing. .

Sponsor Representative Thomas

Requester Military and Veterans' Affairs

Dept. Affected: Military and Veterans Affairs

RDU Military and Veterans Affairs

Component Veterans Services

Component No. 421

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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 (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: John Cramer

Division Administrative Services

Approved by: Commissioner Craig E. Campbell

Agency Military and Veterans Affairs

Phone (907) 465-4602

Date/Time 3/22/05 3:03 PM

Date 3/22/2005

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB212
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
Title Property Tax Exemption for RDU Comm Assist & Ec Dev (405)
Seniors/Veterans Component Community Advocacy
Sponsor Thomas
Requester Military & Veterans Affairs Component No. 2703

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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 (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation would repeal the current mandatory senior citizen/disabled veteran property tax exemption and make it a local option. It would not create a fiscal impact on the operations of the department.

Prepared by: Michael Black, Director Phone: 907 269 4578
Division: Community Advocacy Date/Time: 3/25/05 1:59 PM
Approved by: Edgar Blatchford, Commissioner Date: 3/25/2005
Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development