

AK LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES SCOMM 149 3241¹⁵

SCOMM

149:6

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: April 13, 2007

FURTHER REFERRALS: State Affairs
Finance

Date of Committee Action: May 3, 2007

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 236

HOUSE BILL NO. 236

DECEASED VETERAN DEATH CERTIFICATE/HONOR

"An Act relating to providing a death certificate for a deceased veteran without cost; relating to a program to honor the memory of a deceased veteran; and providing for an effective date."

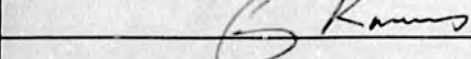
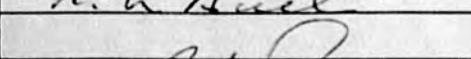
Recommends it be replaced with ☐ HCS or ☒ CS for HB 236 (MLU)
For Senate Bills with new title: ☐ Technical Title ☐ New Title: HCR _____ ☐ Same Title ☒ New Title

- [] 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
LWF
LAW
LEG
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing <u>with recommendations</u>		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
		RAMANKI				☒
Anna J. Fairclough		LoDout	X			
		FAIRCLOUGH	X			
		RAMRAS	X			
B. Ramras						
		Bush	X			
R. L. Bush						
Chair:		ROSES	X			
Chair:						

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HB 236

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYNN

- 1 Page 1, line 1:
- 2 Delete "**cost**"
- 3 Insert "**charge**"
- 4
- 5 Page 2, lines 23 - 24:
- 6 Delete "**cost to the individual making the request**"
- 7 Insert "**charge**"

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB236-DHSS-DPH-05-01-07
 Bill Version: HB 236
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Title DECEASED VETERAN DEATH
CERTIFICATE/HONOR

RDU Public Health

Component Bureau of Vital Statistics

Sponsor HOUSE (STA)

Requester HOUSE (MLV)

Component No. 961

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
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	50.0	60.0	75.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1156 (Receipt Svcs)	(50.0)	(60.0)	(75.0)	(90.0)	(90.0)	(90.0)
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS:

(Attach a separate page if necessary)

Under this bill family members or representatives (executors, etc.) of deceased veterans may each request one free copy of the veteran's certified death certificate. Because the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) relies substantially on fee revenues to cover its operating costs, any loss of these revenues will have an immediate impact on staffing and quality of service to the public if not replaced by general funds.

About 10% of the proposed FY08 budget for BVS is GF (\$266.6). In contrast, 65% of the BVS budget proposed for FY08 comes from Receipt Supported Services (RSS). Limited flexibility in the BVS budget compounds the problem of relying on fees for operating costs. (Continued on Page 2)

Prepared by: Jay C. Butler, MD

Division Public Health

Phone 465-3090

Date/Time 04/30/2007

Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner

Date 05/01/2007

Agency Department of Health and Social Services

FISCAL NOTE

FN #

**STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
ANALYSIS CONTINUATION**

One-third of BVS's annual expenses are fixed costs for items such as lease space, telecommunications services and paper for certificates. Areas where there is some flexibility, such as travel, have been reduced in recent years due to "belt tightening" budget reductions and loss in buying power. Nearly two-thirds of the BVS budget covers personal services.

We project this bill will cost BVS \$50.0 in lost revenue in FY08, increasing to a loss of \$90.0 by FY11. The estimates are based on the \$20 fee for a certified copy of a death certificate and the approximately 900 deaths per year where the decedent was a veteran. Under this version of the bill, receipt of free copies is not restricted - each family member or representative may request one free copy but any number of family members or representatives may request a free copy. It is estimated that veterans' families and representatives will request, on average, five free copies (families have been known to request as many as 30 copies of a death certificate). The fiscal impact will be approximately \$50.0 for the first year the legislation is in effect (\$20 x 2,500 certified copies, assuming just 500 families will request 5 certificates each in the first year), increasing to \$90.0 by FY10 (\$20 x 4,500 certified copies) as more people become aware of the new benefit provided by this law. The Bureau will experience a greater loss of revenue if this bill generates more than five requests per death, or if the number of decedents who are veterans exceeds 900 in a year.

This projected loss of revenue to BVS appears in the Receipt Supported Services line and, if the current level of staffing and service to the public is to be maintained, this lost revenue will have to be replaced with GF. If new GF is not received to offset the lost revenue, the Bureau will have to eliminate one position the first year this bill is in effect, and a second position within the subsequent one to two years. The loss of these positions will limit the Bureau's ability to process requests for vital records in a timely manner by limiting the number of requests that can be processed daily. Previous experience has shown that when BVS is understaffed, the public can expect delays of up to eight weeks for processing vital record requests. At current staffing levels, the average turnaround time is two to three days.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB236-DMVA-VS-5-1-07
 Bill Version: HB 236 (H) MLV
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Dept. Affected: Military & Veterans Affairs

Title Providing a Death Certification for deceased

RDU Military and Veterans Affairs

Veteran Without Cost

Component Veterans Services

Sponsor State Affairs Committee

Requester Military and Veterans Affairs

Component No. 421

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The department expects that there will be no fiscal impact due to this legislation.

Prepared by: Mr. John Cramer, Acting Deputy Commissioner

Division: Commissioner's Office

Approved by: General Craig Campbell, Commissioner

Agency: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Phone: (907) 465-4602

Date/Time: 5/1/07 1:00 PM

Date: 5/1/2007

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HB 236

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYNN

1 Page 1, line 1:

2 Delete "**cost**"

3 Insert "**charge**"

4

5 Page 2, lines 23 - 24:

6 Delete "**cost to the individual making the request**"

7 Insert "**charge**"

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Vice-Chairman
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism
Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Corrections
Labor and Workforce Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs
Public Safety



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 31 Anchorage

E-Mail: Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us
"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" RepBobLynnBlog.com

Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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

Interim:
716 W. 4th Ave., #650
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

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

April 26, 2007

To: Representative Roses, Chair
Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fr: Representative Bob Lynn *BL*

Re: HB 236 "Deceased Veteran Death Certificate/Honor"

Please schedule HB 236 to be heard in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience. Attached is a copy of the Bill and supporting documents. Thank you.

Included in this Packet:

HB 236 25\LS0838\A
Sponsor Statement / Sectional Analysis (combined)
Bill History
State of Arizona
- Example Certificate of Death
- Example Arizona Statutes

Sample - Presidential Memorial Certificate and background on program
Relevant Statutes

Expected to Testify:

- Philip Mitchell, Vital Statistics
- A representative from Military and Veterans Affairs

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Vice-Chairman
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism
Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Corrections
Labor and Workforce Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs
Public Safety



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 31 Anchorage

House State Affairs Committee

Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Sponsor Statement

HB 236

Deceased Veteran Death Certificate / Honor

HB 236 provides one certified death certificate, without cost, to a surviving spouse, next of kin, or other eligible relative of a deceased veteran. The bill is modeled after Arizona statute.

HB 236 also creates the Governor's Memorial Certificate Program to allow the Adjutant General to honor deceased veterans who are residents of Alaska, by issuing to their family memorial 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 given to surviving family members or other eligible recipients as defined, acknowledging the State's appreciation for the service of the deceased veteran.

Sectional Analysis

Section 1 (7) outlines who is eligible to receive a free death certificate and indicates that one free death certificate be issued to eligible recipient.

Section 2 adds the Governor's Memorial Certificate Program to As 26.10. It outlines the procedure for the program.

(b)(1) This section defines who is an "eligible recipient" of a deceased veteran.

(b)(2) This section defines "veteran" as the meaning given in As 26.10.080

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

STATE OF ARIZONA

ORIGINAL
STATE
COPY

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

DEATH NO.
D 102-

NAME OF DECEASED		AKA A. FIRST SEYMOUR B. MIDDLE C. LAST EPSTEIN		SEX	DATE OF DEATH	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
1. RACE (e.g., white, black, American Indian, (specify tribe) etc.)		2. WAS DECEDENT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN: (SPECIFY YES OR NO)		3. IF YES, INDICATE MEXICAN, SPANISH, PUERTO RICAN, CUBAN, ETC.		4. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (SPECIFY YES OR NO)		
5. PLACE OF DEATH		6. A. COUNTY B. TOWN OR CITY		7. C. HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (IF RESIDENCE, GIVE STREET ADDRESS)		8. ☐ DCA ☐ OF EMER ☐ IN PATIENT		
9. DATE OF BIRTH		10. AGE (YEARS LAST BIRTHDAY)		11. IF UNDER 1 YEAR MOS. DAYS		12. IF UNDER 1 DAY HRS. MIN.		13. MARRIED NEVER MARRIED WIDOWED DIVORCED (SPECIFY)
14. STATE AND CITY OF BIRTH (If not in U.S., name country)		15. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? SPECIFY		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		17. SURVIVING SPOUSE (IF WIFE, GIVE MAIDEN NAME)		18. ☐ YES ☐ NO
19. USUAL RESIDENCE		20. A. STATE B. COUNTY C. TOWN OR CITY		21. D. ZIP CODE		22. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done most of working life, even if retired)		23. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY
24. STREET ADDRESS OF R.F.D.		25. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? (SPECIFY Yes or No)		26. ON RESERVATION (SPECIFY Yes or No)		27. PREVIOUS STATE OF RESIDENCE		28. ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY (0-12) COLLEGE (1-4 or 5-)
29. FATHER'S NAME		30. A. FIRST B. MIDDLE C. LAST		31. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME		32. A. FIRST B. MIDDLE C. LAST		33. RABKIN
34. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE		35. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED		36. ADDRESS		37. STREET NO.		38. CITY AND STATE
39. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL, OTHER (Specify)		40. DATE		41. CEMETERY OR CREMATORY - NAME/LOCATION		42. EMBALMER'S SIGNATURE		43. CERT. NO.
44. FUNERAL HOME		45. NAME		46. STREET ADDRESS		47. CITY AND STATE		48. 86314
49. ARIZONA WAKELIN BRADSHAW, 8480 EAST VALLEY ROAD, PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ		50. GARY		51. 0939		52. 2-5-2004		
53. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED AT THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE AND DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED.		54. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN		55. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Year)		56. HOUR OF DEATH		57. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or print)
58. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER, PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER OR TRIBAL EMBALMER (Type or print)		59. REG. FILE NO.		60. REG. DISTRICT		61. DATE REC'D. IN STATE OFFICE		62. WEEKS
63. A. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH		64. B. INTERMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH		65. C. UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH		66. D. OTHER CAUSE OF DEATH		67. APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
68. MANNER OF DEATH		69. CAUSE		70. INJURY AT WORK? (Specify Yes or No)		71. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED		72. AUTOPSY (Specify Yes or No)
73. PLACE OF INJURY (At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc.)		74. WHERE LOCATED?		75. STREET ADDRESS		76. CITY OR TOWN		77. STATE
78. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		79. MORTUARY		80. CORRECTED BOXES 1 & 14A. 2-5-2004		81. Pursuant to A.R.S. 39-122, this copy has been issued free of charge for the purpose of applying for and obtaining Veteran's and Social Security Benefits and shall not be valid for any other purpose.		

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS

STATE OF ARIZONA
COUNTY OF YAVAPAI

DATE ISSUED FEB 06 2004

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the VITAL RECORDS SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, PHOENIX, ARIZONA. Issued under the authority of A.R.S. 38-341, and by direction of:

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

152164

This copy is valid unless corrected.

39-122. Free searches for and copies of public records to be used in claims against United States; liability for noncompliance

A. No state, county or city, or any officer or board thereof shall demand or receive a fee or compensation for issuing certified copies of public records or for making search for them, when they are to be used in connection with a claim for a pension, allotment, allowance, compensation, insurance or other benefits which is to be presented to the United States or a bureau or department thereof.

B. Notaries public shall not charge for an acknowledgment to a document which is to be so filed or presented.

C. The services specified in subsections A and B shall be rendered on request of an official of the United States, a claimant, his guardian or attorney. For each failure or refusal so to do, the officer so failing shall be liable on his official bond.

Arizona Revised Statutes

Burial & Memorial Benefits

Veterans Benefits & Services

Sample Presidential Memorial Certificates



A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

History

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided.

Page 2 - Presidential Memorial Certificates

Application

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail only. Requests cannot be sent via email. There is no form to use when requesting a PMC. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate. Please submit copies only, as we cannot return original documents.

If you would like to request a Presidential Memorial Certificate, or if you requested one more than eight (8) weeks ago and have not received it yet, we ask that you either:

- 1. Fax** your request and all supporting documents (copy of discharge and death certificate) to: **(202) 565-8054**, or
- 2. Mail** your request and all supporting documents using either the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial mail service, such as one of the overnight or express mail delivery services, to:

**Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903**

If you have any questions about a certificate you have received, a request you have already sent in, or about the program in general, you may call **(202) 565-4964**. Or you may send an electronic inquiry to us by selecting the "Contact the VA" link below.

PLEASE NOTE: The above telephone number is for questions about the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program only.

Veteran Service Officers and Funeral Homes - Please contact us at (202) 565-4259 or (202) 501-2004 for information about submitting requests electronically.

We do not administer other VA programs or have access to other VA records. For assistance with other VA benefits or records please use the "Contact the VA" link below. Or call your Regional office at:

1-800-827-1000

LII

legal information institute

[collection home](#)

US CODE COLLECTION

[search](#)[TITLE 38](#) > [PART I](#) > [CHAPTER 1](#) > [Sec. 112.](#)[Prev](#) | [Next](#)**Sec. 112. - Presidential memorial certificate program****(a)**

At the request of the President the Secretary may conduct a program for honoring the memory of deceased veterans, discharged under honorable conditions, by preparing and sending to eligible recipients a certificate bearing the signature of the President and expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the Armed Forces. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient will not preclude authorization of another certificate if a request is received from some other eligible recipient.

(b)

For the purpose of this **section** an "eligible recipient" means the next of kin, a relative or friend upon request, or an authorized service representative acting on behalf of such relative or friend

Search this title:

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\(CFR\)](#)[Topical references](#)[© copyright](#)[about us](#)[send email](#)[Prev](#) | [Next](#)

House Bill 237

Relevant Statutes

Deceased Veteran Death Certificate/Honor

Sec. 18.50.320. Copies of data from vital records

Sec. 01.10.070 (c). Time statutes become law and take affect.

Sec. ~~18.50.320~~. Copies of data from vital records.

Except as otherwise provided and in accordance with the regulations adopted under AS 18.50.310,

(1) the bureau and the custodian of permanent local records shall, upon request, issue a certified copy of a certificate or record in their custody, or a part of it; each copy issued must show the date of registration or recording, and copies issued from records marked "delayed," "amended," or "court order" shall be similarly marked and must show the effective date;

(2) a certified copy of a certificate or a part of it issued in accordance with (1) of this section is considered the original for all purposes and is prima facie evidence of the facts stated, provided that the evidentiary value of a certificate or record filed more than one year after the event, or a record that has been amended, or a presumptive death certificate, shall be determined by the judicial or administrative body or official before whom the certificate is offered as evidence;

(3) the National Office of Vital Statistics may be furnished the copies or data it requires for national statistics if the bureau is reimbursed for the cost of furnishing the data; the National Office of Vital Statistics may not use the data for purposes other than statistical purposes unless authorized by the state registrar;

(4) federal, state, local, and other public or private agencies, upon request, may be furnished copies or data for statistical purposes on the terms or conditions prescribed by the bureau;

(5) a person or agency may not prepare or issue a certificate or part of a certificate that purports to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage, except as authorized in this chapter or the regulations adopted under it;

(6) upon request, the bureau shall furnish a copy of a certificate or record registered by the bureau to the child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child support purposes authorized under law; such a certificate or record that is prepared or maintained in an electronic data base may be supplied by providing the requesting agency with a copy of the electronic certificate or record and a statement certifying its contents.

Sec. 01.10.070. Time statutes become law and take effect.

(a) All bills passed by the legislature become law upon the governor's signature or upon the governor's veto being overridden or, when the governor allows a bill to become law without signature, on the day after expiration of the period allowed for gubernatorial action by art. II, Sec. 17 of the Alaska Constitution. Acts become effective 90 days after becoming law, unless the legislature, by concurrence of two-thirds of the membership of each house, provides for another effective date.

(b) The actual effective date of an Act having no effective-date provision is determined by starting with the day after it is signed by the governor or the day after the governor's veto is overridden or the day after expiration of the period allowed for gubernatorial action by art. II, Sec. 17 of the Alaska Constitution, and counting 90 calendar days, the Act becoming effective at 12:01 a.m., Alaska Standard Time on the 90th day.

(c) The actual effective date and time of an Act having an immediate-effective-date provision is 12:01 a.m., Alaska Standard Time, on the day after it is signed by the governor or on the day after the governor's veto is overridden or on the day after expiration of the period allowed for gubernatorial action by art. II, Sec. 17 of the Alaska Constitution.

SCOMM

149:7

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

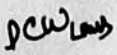
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Delegation by the Governor in the event of wildfire.
(CSHB 326(MLV)(Work Order No. 25-GH2016\C))

TO: Representative Bob Roses
Chair of House Special Committee on Military and Veterans
Affairs
Attn: Josh Applebee

FROM: Dan Wayne 
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is the draft CS for HB 326 that you requested. As requested by the committee, it limits delegation of power by the Governor to the Adjutant General, AS 26.05.070, to circumstances involving the fighting of wildfire. There is another statute the committee should be aware of in connection with this delegation. AS 26.05.080 says:

Decision of governor final. Whenever any portion of the militia is ordered to duty by the governor, the decision of the governor in this matter is final.

Since AS 26.05.080 does not mention the adjutant general, it might be interpreted to mean that when a portion of the militia is ordered by the adjutant general to fight wildfire the adjutant general's decision is not final; on the other hand, it could be interpreted to mean that the governor's decision to delegate authority in the matter to the adjutant general is final.

Please take a look at page 2, lines 25 - 30. Does the reference to "the minimum payment of \$105" still make sense in light of the deletions on lines 25 27?

The title has been changed, and a definition of "wildfire" has been added to the body of the bill, in this draft. The committee should review these changes and make sure they are consistent with committee's intention.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DCW:lmb
08-020.lmb

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 5800
FORT RICHARDSON, AK 99505

PHONE: (907) 428-6003

FAX: (907) 428-6017

January 17, 2008

The Honorable Bob Roses
Chairman, House Committee for Military and Veterans Affairs
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

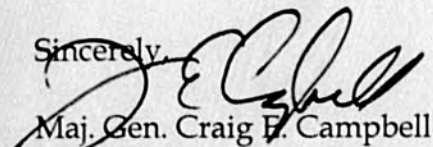
Dear Representative Roses:

I am writing to request you schedule House Bill 320 the act relating to Emergency Firefighter Pay for National Guard members. This bill will pay Alaska National Guard members, called by the Department of Natural Resources to fight fires, the same amount of money that emergency firefighters are paid. This will provide equal pay for equal work on the fire lines.

Currently, the law states that Alaska National Guard members called to duty must be paid at state active duty rates. The state active duty rate of pay is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of what the Emergency Firefighters are being paid for the same work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Maj. Gen. Craig E. Campbell

Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 15, 2008

The Honorable John Harris
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Harris:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill authorizing the Governor to delegate to the adjutant general the authority to order the organized militia into active state service and authorizing payment of Alaska National Guard called into active state service to fight wildfires at rates of pay established for certain emergency fire-fighting personnel.

Section 1 of the bill would amend AS 26.05.070, which authorizes the Governor to order the organized militia into active state service in certain circumstances, to authorize the Governor to delegate to the adjutant general the authority to order the organized militia into active state service if these circumstances exist. The organized militia includes the Alaska National Guard, the Alaska Naval Militia, and the Alaska State Defense Force. The circumstances under which the organized militia may be called into active state service include the occurrence or imminent danger of occurrence of a disaster or other catastrophe. Authorizing the Governor to delegate to the adjutant general the authority to order the organized militia into active state service is appropriate to allow a rapid response to such events, particularly if the Governor is not immediately available.

Section 2 of the bill would amend AS 26.05.260(b), which establishes the pay for members of the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska Naval Militia called into active state service under AS 26.05.070, to authorize the payment of Alaska National Guard personnel called to active state service to fight wildfires at rates of pay established for emergency fire-fighting personnel under AS 41.15.030 if the adjutant general and the commissioner of natural resources so agree. Existing AS 41.15.030 provides that the commissioner of natural resources may hire emergency fire-fighting personnel and shall establish classifications and rates of pay for the emergency fire-fighting personnel

The Honorable John Harris

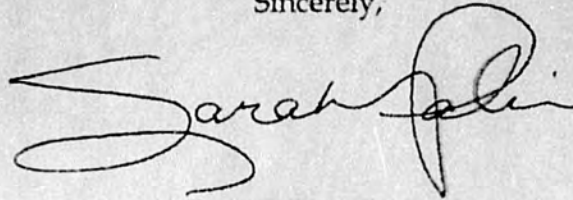
January 15, 2008

Page 2

consistent with the compensation paid by other fire-fighting agencies. The amendment to AS 26.05.260(b) will allow pay parity between national guard and civilian personnel of specified classifications fighting wildfires by agreement between the commissioner of natural resources and the adjutant general. Section 2 would also amend AS 26.05.260(b) to remove an outdated provision relating to payment of Alaska National Guard and Alaska Naval Militia members for active service performed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Palin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosure

HOUSE BILL NO. 326

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/17/08

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

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

26.05.070
 Limit
 to
 activation of
 troops for
 fire fighting
 ONLY

Conceptual Amend #1
 Fairleigh
 Need to restrict
 this language to
 fire fighters only
 PASSED v/c

1 "An Act authorizing the governor to delegate to the adjutant general the authority to
 2 order the organized militia into active state service and authorizing the payment of
 3 Alaska National Guard called into active state service to fight wildfires at rates of pay
 4 established for certain emergency fire-fighting personnel; and providing for an effective
 5 date."

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

7 * Section 1. AS 26.05.070 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 26.05.070. Governor may order organized militia into active state
 9 service. In the event of war, disaster, insurrection, rebellion, tumult, catastrophe,
 10 invasion, or riot; or if a mob or body of men act together by force with intent to
 11 commit a felony or to offer violence to persons or property, or by force and violence to
 12 break and resist the laws of the state, or the United States; or in the case of imminent
 13 danger of the occurrence of any of these events; or whenever responsible civil

1 authorities fail to preserve law and order, or protect life and property, or the governor
 2 believes that failure is imminent, the governor may order the organized militia or any
 3 part of it, into active state service to execute the laws and to perform duties in
 4 connection with them that the governor considers proper. Whenever any portion of the
 5 militia is ordered into active state service by the governor, it becomes an additional
 6 police force, retaining its separate entity and operating at all times as a military
 7 organization under military command, with power to cooperate with but not to
 8 supersede the existing civilian law enforcement officers whenever possible, for the re-
 9 establishment of law and order and for the protection of life and property. The
 10 governor may also order members of the organized militia to active state service, with
 11 their consent, for the purpose of training or for full-time duty with the office of the
 12 adjutant general. The governor may delegate authority to order the organized
 13 militia or any part of it, into active state service under this section to the adjutant
 14 general.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 26.05.260(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) Members of the Alaska National Guard and Alaska Naval Militia are
 17 entitled to receive, for each day of active service under AS 26.05.070, pay equal to
 18 200 percent of the minimum daily basic pay provided by federal laws and regulations
 19 for members of equivalent grades of the United States armed forces, except that the
 20 adjutant general and the commissioner of natural resources may agree that
 21 specified classifications of Alaska National Guard personnel called to active state
 22 service to fight wildfires shall be paid at rates established for emergency fire-
 23 fighting personnel in accordance with AS 41.15.030. [HOWEVER, A MEMBER
 24 MAY NOT RECEIVE LESS THAN \$105 PER DAY FOR ACTIVE SERVICE
 25 PERFORMED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2000.] For fiscal
 26 years beginning after June 30, 2000, the minimum payment of \$105 shall be increased
 27 one percent for each percent increase in the consumer price index for Anchorage,
 28 Alaska, as determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
 29 Statistics, not to exceed an annual increase of four percent. The increase, if any, takes
 30 effect not more than 30 days after the release of the consumer price index. The
 31 consumer price index that is published immediately after July 1, 1999, is the reference

- 1 base index.
- 2 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 5800

FORT RICHARDSON, AK 99505

PHONE: (907) 428-6003

FAX: (907) 428-6017

Sectional Analysis for HB 326-Emergency Firefighter Pay for Alaska National Guard Members

- Section 1, the Governor may delegate authority to the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard to activate troops to fight wild fires when asked for by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Section 2 changes the statute to allow National Guard members, when fighting wild fires, to be paid the same as all other emergency firefighters instead of State Active Duty rates.
- Section 3 provides an immediate effective date.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 326
(H) Publish Date: 1/17/08

Identifier (file name): 0016-DOA-DOP-12-17-07 Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: "An Act authorizing the governor to delegate to the adjutant the authority to order organized militia into active state svc..." RDU: Central Administrative Services
Sponsor: Rules Committee Component: Personnel
Requester: Governor Component Number: 56

* (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will have no fiscal impact on the Division of Personnel

Prepared by: Nicki Neal, Director Phone: 907-465-4429
Division: Division of Personnel Date/Time: 12/17/07 1:40 p.m.
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner Date: 12/26/2007
Department of Administration

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: HB 326
 (H) Publish Date: 1/17/08

Identifier (file name): 0016-DMVA-ARNG-1-11-08 Dept. Affected: DMVA
 Title TAG authorization to order militia into active state service and RDU Military and Veterans Affairs
authorization of payment for fighting wildfires Component National Guard Military Headquarters
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component Number 2135

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Travel	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contractual	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Supplies	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Equipment	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Land & Structures	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grants & Claims	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL OPERATING							

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

1002 Federal Receipts	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1003 GF Match	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1004 GF	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1037 GF/Mental Health	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Interagency Receipts	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL							

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost:

POSITIONS

Full-time	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Part-time	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Temporary	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Funds to pay for firefighter services are RSA'd from the Fire Suppression Fund of the Department of Natural Resources.

Due to fluctuating demands for firefighters and unknown number of events per year, we are submitting an indeterminate fiscal note. It is not known at this time what the impact of this legislation will be to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget.

Prepared by: McHugh Pierre, Communications Director/Legislative Liaison Phone 907 465-4621
 Division National Guard Military Headquarters/Commissioner's Office Date/Time 1/11/08 1:30 PM
 Approved by: Commissioner Craig Campbell Date 1/11/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: HB 326
 (H) Publish Date: 1/17/08

Identifier (file name): LL#08-0016-DNR-Fire-01-08-08 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title Authorizing the governor to delegate the adjunct general RDU Statewide Fire Suppression
the authority to order the organized militia into active state service... Component Fire Suppression Activity
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component Number 2706

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING							

*** INDETERMINATE ***

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

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL							

*** INDETERMINATE ***

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: Indeterminate

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The cost is indeterminate. Since 2000, the Army National Guard (ANG) has been utilized four times: once in 2002, twice in 2004, and once in 2007. The only impact may be to the Fire Suppression Activity Component when ANG Units are involved in the actual suppression of wildland fires. The use of ANG resources on wildland fires has been and will continue to be highly variable as it is based on factors that cannot be easily predicted such as: severity of the fire season, availability of other resources, and the unavailability of ANG units due to deployment elsewhere in the world. Identification of costs is dependent on unpredictable factors including availability of civilian resources, Guard module configurations to meet specific wildland fire situations, and industry availability of private sector equipment contracts such as helicopters.

Prepared by: Lynn Wilcock
 Division: Forestry
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone (907) 451-2675
 Date/Time 1/8/2008
 Date 1/8/2008

DNR Comments on 773-08-0016

Authorizing payment of Alaska National Guard called into service to fight wildfires at RFF Rates of Pay

Division of Forestry use of the DMVA National Guard resources has occurred infrequently and only under extreme fire occurrence. When we have used the National Guard they have been of immense value. Since 2000, the Guard has been utilized four times, once in 2002 twice in 2004 and once in 2007. However, the actual availability of the Guard has been impacted by mobilizations to other parts of the world, making them totally unavailable during some fire seasons.

Identification of the costs associated with their future usage is totally dependent upon factors we cannot predict – such as the severity of the fire season, availability of National Guard Units, and the configuration (number and types of positions or resources required for the situation), as well as the fact the Division of Forestry can only use them after we have used all available civilian assets (also a variable that is impacted by other industry use and the season). The primary reason that we have used the Guard in recent years has been the lack of civilian helicopters in the state. A number of factors in the aviation and oil and gas industries have led to a steady decline in the number of civilian helicopters available for use on wildland fires. Both the legislature and previous administrations have supported use of private sector contracts for Forestry aviation.

Summary of use since 2000:

- In 2002, AKNG flew for 39.0 helicopter hours and DOF paid \$177,000 for a total of 5 days.
- In 2004, AKNG flew 258.1 helicopter hours and DOF paid \$649,379.60 (includes flight hours, personnel, meals, lodging, etc.), during 2 different mobilizations totaling 50 days.
- In 2007, AKNG flew 30.4 helicopter hours and DOF paid \$147,351.80 for a total of 4 days (includes flight hours, personnel, and a fuel truck, ...no meals and lodging as the crews flew back and forth from the Willow to Fort Rich every night)

It is worthy to note that in two of those three years this proposed legislation would not have increased the amount paid. In 2002 and 2007 the National Guard units were not put on Active Duty and thus continued to receive their normal guard pay plus overtime. In 2004 when they were placed on Active Duty and received combat pay, which in most cases is less than they would receive as regular employees.

The 2007 EFF rates are attached. Under the new legislation, Pilots would be paid at the EFF Pilot rate (EFF-12, \$35.23/hr.). Aircraft mechanics and other support personnel would be paid at rates equivalent to those positions on EFF rate schedule. Rates have not been established for 2008, but typically go up about 3% year.

2007 LIST OF APPROVED EFF CLASSIFICATIONS

Title	Mnemonic	Rate	Title	Mnemonic	Rate
Aircrew Representative*	AREP	EFF-11	Incident Commander Type 3*	ICT3	EFF-10
Aircraft Base Radio Operator*	ABRO	EFF-3	Incident Communication Center Mgr*	INCM	EFF-5
Air Support Group Supervisor	ASGS	EFF-10	Incident Communication Technician	INCT	EFF-6
Air Tactical Group Supervisor	ATGS	EFF-10	Initial Attack Dispatcher *	IADP	EFF-8
Airtanker Base Manager*	ATBM	EFF-10	Interagency Resource Rep*	IARR	EFF-9
Barracks Worker		EFF-3	Laborer***	THSP	EFF-3
Barracks Worker- Lead		EFF-4	Line Officer	LINE	EFF-11
Base Camp Manager*	BCMG	EFF-5	Loadmaster***	LOAD	EFF-9
Buying Team Member	BUYM	EFF-6	Maintenance Mechanic***		EFF-6
Camp Crew Member***	THSP	EFF-1	Maintenance Worker***		EFF-2
Camp Crew Squad Boss***	THSP	EFF-3	Minister*	MXMS	EFF-7
Camp Crew Boss***	THSP	EFF-4	Materials Handler *	WHHR	EFF-5
Carpenter***		EFF-9	Materials Handler Leader *	WHLR	EFF-6
Clerk***	CASC	EFF-3	Mechanic (Automotive/Heavy Equip)	GMEC	EFF-7
Commissary Manager*	CMSY	EFF-5	Medical Unit Leader*	MEDL	EFF-6
Cook, Head Camp***	COOK	EFF-6	Operations Branch Director*	OPBD	EFF-11
Cook Helper***	CAMP	EFF-2	Ordering Manager*	ORDM	EFF-5
Crew Administrative Representative*	CAR	EFF-8	Paramedic*	EMTP	EFF-10
Crew Boss*	CRWB	EFF-6	Personnel Time Recorder*	PTRC	EFF-5
Crew Representative*	CREP	EFF-7	Pilot* or Pilot***	PILO	EFF-12
Demob Unit Leader*	DMOB	EFF-8	Prevention Education Team Leader*	PETL	EFF-11
Detection Specialist***	AOBS	EFF-6	Prevention Education Team Member*	PETM	EFF-10
Display Processor*	DPRO	EFF-3	Public Information Officer Type I*	PIOI	EFF-12
Division/Group Supervisor*	DIVS	EFF-10	Public Information Officer Type II*	PIO2	EFF-11
Documentation Unit Leader	DOCL	EFF-6	Public Information Officer	PHOF	EFF-7
Dozer Boss*	DOZB	EFF-6	Radio Operator*	RADO	EFF-2
Dozer Operator***	DOZI	EFF-8	Ramp Manager*	RAMP	EFF-6
Driver, CDL Required	DRCL	EFF-5	Receiving & Dist. Manager*	RCDM	EFF-5
Driver, >1 Ton and ≤ 4 Tons (No CDL)	DRVS	EFF-4	Receptionist***		EFF-2
Driver, ≤1 Ton	DRVV	EFF-3	Resource Advisor	READ	EFF-9
EMTB***	EMTB	EFF-7	Resources Unit Leader*	RESL	EFF-8
EMTI***	EMTI	EFF-7	Retardant Worker***		EFF-6
EMTP***	EMTP	EFF-10	Safety Officer Type 1*	SOF1	EFF-12
Engine Boss* or Engine Boss**	ENGB	EFF-6	Safety Officer Type 2*	SOF2	EFF-11
Engine Operator* or Engine Operator**	ENOP	EFF-5	Safety Officer, Line*	SOFR	EFF-8
Equipment Manager*	EQPM	EFF-5	Section Chiefs Type 1*	FSC1	EFF-12
Equipment Time Recorder*	EQTR	EFF-5	Section Chiefs Type 2*	FSC2	EFF-11
Expanded Dispatch Recorder*	EDRC	EFF-3	Situation Unit Leader*	SITL	EFF-6
Expanded Dispatch Coordinator*	CORD	EFF-10	Security Manager*	SECM	EFF-5
Expanded Supervisory Dispatcher*	EDSP	EFF-8	Staging Area Manager*	STAM	EFF-6
Expanded Support Dispatcher*	EDSD	EFF-6	Status Check-in Recorder*	SCKN	EFF-5
Field Observer*	FOBS	EFF-6	Strike Team Leader-All Types*		EFF-8
Firefighter Type 1*	FFT1	EFF-4	Structure Protection Specialist*	STPS	EFF-10
Firefighter Type 2*	FFT2	EFF-3	Swamper***		EFF-2
Fire Behavior Analyst*	FBAN	EFF-10	Task Force Leader*	TFLD	EFF-7
Fire Investigator*	INVF	EFF-11	Time Unit Leader*	TIME	EFF-6
Fixed Wing Base Manager*	FWBM	EFF-9	Unit Leaders* (w/ exception of DOCL & PROC which are EFF 6 & 9 respectively)		EFF-8
Fixed Wing Parking Tender*	FWPT	EFF-3	Warehouse Worker***		EFF-4
Food Service Worker***		EFF-1			
Fork Lift Operator***		EFF-2		Type 2 Crew	
Fueler***		EFF-2			
Fuel Specialist***	FUEL	EFF-4	Crew Member*	FFT2	EFF-3
GIS Specialist*	GISS	EFF-7	Squad Boss*	FFT1	EFF-4
Ground Support Unit Leader*	GSUL	EFF-8	Crew Boss*	CRWB	EFF-6
Helicopter Boss, Single Resource*	HELB	EFF-6		Type 1 Crew	
Helicopter Manager*	HELM	EFF-7			
Helibase Manager Type 2*	HEB2	EFF-8	Crew Member * <2 seasons		EFF-3
Helibase Manager Type 1*	HEB1	EFF-9	Crew Member *		EFF-4
Helicopter Crew Member*	HECM	EFF-4	Squad Boss *		EFF-6
Incident Commander Type 5*	ICT5	EFF-5	Asst. Crew Superintendent *		EFF-7
Incident Commander Type 4*	ICT4	EFF-6	Crew Superintendent*		EFF-8

* Must meet ICS requirements and possess a valid Red Card. Trainees are hired at one pay rate below qualified hires.

**** Must be dispatched as part of a Structure Fire Department (SFD) unit of apparatus.**

*** Alaska positions, local hire, not normally sent to the Lower-48 states.

EFF-1	\$10.85	EFF-6	\$17.98	EFF-11	\$29.39
EFF-2	\$11.98	EFF-7	\$19.65	EFF-12	\$35.23
EFF-3	\$13.58	EFF-8	\$21.99	EFF-13	\$41.89
EFF-4	\$14.92	EFF-9	\$24.30		
EFF-5	\$16.38	EFF-10	\$26.75		

To get the rate for a position not listed here, contact Karen Gordon at 451-2652 for the Northern Region and Darlene Langill at 761-6205 for the Coastal Region.

EFF Title	Hourly	Overtime rate (1.5x)	Daily (12 Hours)	Weekly (7x12)
EFF-12 (Pilot)	\$35.23	\$52.85	\$422.76	\$3,734.38
EFF 9 (Loadm	\$24.30	\$36.45	\$291.60	\$2,575.80
EFF-8 (Rear d	\$21.99	\$32.99	\$263.88	\$2,330.94
EFF -11 (Ager	\$29.39	\$44.09	\$352.68	\$3,115.34

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SAD Daily Rate</u>	<u>SAD Weekly Rate</u>
O6/COL	\$357.50	\$2,502.50
O5/LTC	\$298.00	\$2,086.00
O4/MAJ	\$257.12	\$1,799.84
O3/CPT	\$226.06	\$1,582.42
O2/1LT	\$195.30	\$1,367.10
O1/2LT	\$169.56	\$1,186.92
O3E/CPT	\$301.58	\$2,111.06
O2E/1LT	\$264.88	\$1,854.16
O1E/2LT	\$213.32	\$1,493.24
CW5	\$415.40	\$2,907.80
CW4	\$233.60	\$1,635.20
CW3	\$213.34	\$1,493.38
CW2	\$188.78	\$1,321.46
CW1	\$165.70	\$1,159.90
E9/SGM	\$282.26	\$1,975.82
E8/MSG	\$231.04	\$1,617.28
E7/SFC	\$160.62	\$1,124.34
E6/SSG	\$138.92	\$972.44
E5/SGT	\$127.30	\$891.10
E4/SPC	\$121.92*	\$853.44
E3/PFC	\$121.92*	\$853.44
E2/PVT	\$121.92*	\$853.44
E1/PV1	\$121.92*	\$853.44

SCOMM

149:8

Date Referred to Committee: February 19, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS: Labor and Commerce

Date of Committee Action: March 25, 2008

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 383

HOUSE BILL NO. 383

DENTIST LICENSE EXAM EXCEPTION

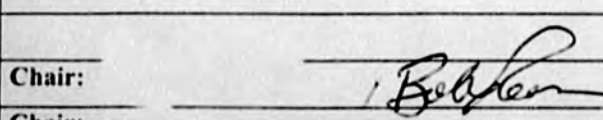
"An Act establishing an exemption from the dentist licensing exam for certain persons."

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

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
		KARAMAS			☒	
Chad K. B.		KODOL	☒			
Mary Dahl		Dahl	☒			
Lynd		KAMRAS	☒			
Chair: _____		ROSES	☒			
Chair: _____						

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____

Bill Version: HB 383

() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB383-CED-OL-03-15-08

Title Dentist License Exam Exception

Dept. Affected: DCCED

RDU Corp. Bus & Prof Licensing (117)

Component Corp. Bus & Prof Licensing

Sponsor Coghill

Requester House Military & Veterans' Affairs

Component Number 2360

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
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 Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation amends AS 08.36.234 by establishing an exemption from the dentist licensing exam for people acting in a fulltime supervisory position in an agency of, or the armed forces of, the United States.

This legislation has no fiscal impact on the operations of the division.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Officer
 Division: Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing
 Approved by: Emil R. Notti, Commissioner
 Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone (907) 465-2572
 Date/Time 3/14/08 3:14 PM
 Date 3/14/2008

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 214

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 383

"An Act establishing an exemption from the dentist licensing exam for certain persons."

It is necessary for the protection and health of patients that dentists have a certain number of hours of clinical practice prior to seeking a license and entering private practice. However, while these safeguards are prudent, the requirements have excluded many dedicated dentists who no longer practice dentistry because they are in command positions.

In order to capture the skill and expertise of many dedicated dentists who have served in the armed services for 20 years or more and have been promoted to command positions, this bill will add an exception to the requirement of continuous active clinical practice averaging at least 20 hours a week.

This exception applies to those men and women in the armed services that have been promoted to full-time supervisory positions in an agency of, or the armed forces of, the United States.

These are professionals that have a great deal to offer and I believe it is in our best interest to amend the statute to allow their licensure in Alaska in order that they may continue their professional service here.

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 214**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

SECTIONAL

HB 383

"An Act establishing an exemption from the dentist licensing exam for certain persons."

Section 1: AS 08.36.234 Licensure by credentials

(a) The board shall provide for the licensing without examination, except as provided in (2) of this subsection, of a dentist who

(D) has been engaged in either continuous active clinical practice averaging at least 20 hours a week or a full-time supervisory position in an agency of, or the armed forces of, the United States for each of the five years immediately preceding the application

SCOMM

149:9

Date Referred to Committee: February 19, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS: HES

Date of Committee Action: April 1, 2008

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 405

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR MILITARY

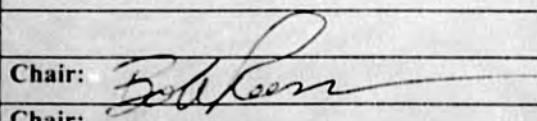
"An Act relating to forgiveness of a percentage of student loans for a member of the armed forces deployed since 2001."

Recommends it be replaced with ☐ HCS or ☒ CS for HAB 405 (MLV)
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

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MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
		Kragg			X	
Holt	10-4	Holt			X	
R. L. Buck		Buck	X			
Nancy D. Kish		D. Kish	X			
Chair: 		ROSE	X			
Chair:						

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB405
Bill Version: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: Education
Title An Act relating to forgiveness of a percentage of student RDU ACPE
loans for a member of the armed forces deployed since 2001. Component Program Administration &
Sponsor Rep. Crawford Operations
Requester (H)MLV Component Number 2735

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
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	1,100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	1,100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The current aggregate balance of loans owed by borrowers who were eligible for a 2007 dividend (proxy for AK resident) and known to have received military deferments or forbearances on their loans between 2001 and 2008 totals \$2.2 million. That would be the anticipated cost of this program in the year the law is enacted. The future costs of the loan discharge benefit is indeterminate at this time.

Prepared by: Diane Barrans, Executive Director
Division: Executive Office
Approved by: Diane Barrans, Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Phone 465-6740
Date/Time 3/14/2008 4:30PM
Date 3/14/2008

Nancy offering

25-LS1483\E.1
Bullock/Mischel
2/27/08

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 405

- 1 Page 1, line 14, following "States":
- 2 Insert ", the United States Coast Guard,"

25-LS1483/M
Mischel
3/29/08

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 405()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Kawasaki, Doll, Kerttula

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to repayment of a percentage of student loans for a member of the**
2 **armed forces deployed since 2001."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 14.43.925. Loan repayment for certain military personnel.** (a) A
6 portion of a loan made to a borrower by the commission shall be repaid by the state if
7 the borrower is a resident of the state, and

8 (1) has served in the armed forces;

9 (2) was deployed to provide direct or indirect support for the global
10 war on terrorism;

11 (3) if discharged from the armed forces, was discharged in honorable
12 status; and

13 (4) is in good standing for the repayment of the loan and in full
14 compliance with the terms and conditions of the loan.

1 (b) The portion of the loan that shall be repaid by the state under this section is
2 50 percent of the total unpaid balance of the loan, plus interest, not to exceed \$20,000.

3 (c) Repayment of a portion of a loan under this section is subject to
4 appropriation and is not a financial obligation of the corporation.

5 (d) The commission may adopt regulations to implement this section.

6 (e) In this section, "armed forces" means the armed services or forces of the
7 United States, the United States Coast Guard, or the Alaska National Guard or Naval
8 Militia.

9 * **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this Act apply to loans that have an outstanding
12 balance on the effective date of this Act and to loans made after the effective date of this Act.

Changes in CS for HB 405

All instances of "forgiveness, forgive, forgiven" have been replaced with "repayment, repayment benefit, repaid" terminology to more accurately reflect that the State is *repaying* the debt for the borrower--the lender (ASLC) is not "forgiving" anything.

Page 1, Line 9: The deployment criteria have been changed from "deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan" to "deployed to provide direct or indirect support for the global war on terrorism".

This change ensures that those serving in areas other than Iraq and Afghanistan in the Global War on Terrorism are not excluded from this benefit. According to DMVA this is a status that can be verified with a copy of a member of the Armed Services orders.

Page 1, Line 11: added "if discharged from the armed forces, was discharged in honorable status"

Page 1, Line 13: added "is in good standing for the repayment of the loan and in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the loan".

These two changes will help to minimize abuse of the loan repayment benefit.

Page 2, Line 1: changed "The portion of the loan that shall be forgiven by the state under this section is 50 percent of the **total loan amount**, plus interest, not to exceed \$20,000" to "The portion of the loan that shall be forgiven by the state under this section is 50 percent of the **total unpaid balance of the loan**, plus interest, not to exceed \$20,000.

This will encourage borrowers to apply for the benefit sooner rather than later.

Page 2, line 5: added "the commission may adopt regulations to implement this section"

This gives the Commission the authority to adopt regulations to administer the benefit program.

Page 2, Line 7: added "United States Coast Guard"

This change reflects the amendment adopted by the committee on 3/25.

Diane Barrens

25-LS1483E

HOUSE BILL NO. 405

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Kawasaki, Doll

Introduced: 2/19/08

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services,
Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to forgiveness of a percentage of student loans for a member of the
2 armed forces deployed since 2001."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 14.43.925. Loan forgiveness for certain military personnel.** (a) A
6 portion of a loan made to a borrower by the commission shall be forgiven by the state
7 if the borrower is a resident of the state, has served in the armed forces, and was
8 deployed to (Afghanistan or Iraq during or after 2001.)

9 (b) The portion of the loan that shall be forgiven by the state under this section
10 is 50 percent of the total loan amount, plus interest, not to exceed \$20,000.

11 (c) Forgiveness of a portion of a loan under this section is subject to
12 appropriation and is not a financial obligation of the corporation.

13 (d) In this section, "armed forces" means the armed services or forces of the
14 United States or the Alaska National Guard or Naval Militia.

1 * Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this Act apply to loans that have an outstanding
4 balance on the effective date of this Act and to loans made after the effective date of this Act.

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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1-888-478-3438 (toll free)
1-907-465-4565 (fax)



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716 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
(phone) 1-907-269-0100
(fax) 1-907-269-0105

Representative Harry Crawford
District 21

SPONSOR STATEMENT: HOUSE BILL 405

In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001, many Alaskans answered the call of duty to serve their country in the Armed Forces. They answered this call with extraordinary bravery and dedication at great sacrifice to their own personal lives and safety.

To honor the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of Alaskan servicemen and women who have served in the Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, House Bill 405 grants 50% loan forgiveness, up to \$20,000, of the total amount of an Alaska student loan. While this cannot begin to reimburse Alaska servicemen and women for their sacrifice, it offers a small measure of gratitude on the part of the state of Alaska for their extraordinary service to our state and country.

ACPE Student Loan Statistics

Selection criteria:

- Members of the military who have Alaska student loans and,
- Between 2001 and 2008, were granted deferments or forbearances on these loans for their service; and
- Qualified for a 2007 dividend as an Alaska resident.

Total Troops: 125

Average Debt: \$17,600

Total Outstanding Debt: \$2.2 million

Note: this list includes borrowers in military service during this period who may not have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Additionally, it is possible that there are borrowers who have been deployed but who have continued to repay their loans and have not requested either a deferment or forbearance and therefore are not included in the identified population.

March 6, 2008

Representative Harry Crawford
House of Representatives, District 21
Alaska State Legislature

RE: House Bill No. 405/Act relating to forgiveness of a percentage of student loans for a member of the armed forces deployed since 2001.

Dear Representative Harry Crawford,

We want to thank you for proposing HB 405, and offer this letter of support.

Our son, Drew Gehler, born and raised in Anchorage, is a member of the U.S. Air Force Security Forces on active duty. He has served two tours in Iraq, the last in Baghdad as a lieutenant training Iraqi police and patrolling in Baghdad. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Drew was commissioned a second lieutenant through the University of Alaska Anchorage Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Drew utilized the Alaska Student Loan program to help fund his college education, and as a result accumulated a substantial debt. HB 405 would relieve him and other Alaskans of a portion of that burden and also send a message that the State of Alaska recognizes and honors the contributions of our sons and daughters who sacrificed for both an education, for Alaska and for our country by serving in harm's way.

We had many sleepless nights while Drew was in Iraq. Yet when he came home, he told us that he would go back to help again although he acknowledged it was a difficult and complex task not only fighting the insurgents but also trying to help Sunni and Shia factions reconcile. He provided training to both Sunni and Shia police chiefs and police personnel. He told us stories of hope and others of despair. That was Baghdad.

We would think that the fiscal impact of this bill would be modest and that the number of college educated members of the armed forces with Alaska Student loans who have served in the combat theater would be small.

We also want to thank Representatives Doll and Kawasaki for their sponsorship of this bill.

Best wishes,

Bill and Jan Gehler
2411 Foxhall Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
(907) 337-1436
bjgeh@ak.net

ProQuest

Databases selected: Multiple databases...

The Washington Post

Battling for a Diploma; Veterans find it's hard to be all they can be since the GI Bill has failed to keep pace with college tuition; [FINAL Edition]

Michelle Diamant. The Washington Post. Washington, D.C.: Aug 5, 2007. pg. W.18

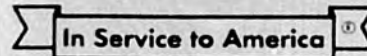
Abstract (Summary)

[Patrick Campbell] was a combat medic in the National Guard in Iraq and now works full time while using the GI Bill to attend law school full time at Catholic University, a route that for many veterans would be simply too overwhelming. "You're either going to get a full-time job or go live on Mama's couch and go to school. And you don't want to live on Mama's couch after a year overseas," he says.

Updating the GI Bill, Webb says, is a cost of war. "If you're not going to take care of people you send to war, don't send them to war," he says. But, he argues, it's a cost with a clear return. He cited a 2007 government report that concluded that World War II veterans who took advantage of their educational benefits had higher earnings, lower rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and an easier time readjusting to civilian life than those who did not. "You don't lose money when you pour it into people's heads," Webb says.

Even so, [Edwin Cadena] figured his benefits from the GI Bill would help make his service worthwhile. But when his service was up, Cadena realized he still wouldn't have enough money to attend U-Va., even with in-state tuition. Today, Cadena gets about \$1,200 a month from the GI Bill. He lives with his parents to save on rent and has a part-time job making \$12 an hour scanning and entering forms into corporate databases. Even with Northern Virginia Community College's comparatively low tuition of about \$1,100 a semester, Cadena can't afford to get a place of his own. Once he finishes his associate's degree next spring, he hopes to transfer to one of Virginia's public four-year universities, where he'll likely pay at least three times as much in tuition alone.

Full Text (1511 words)



ALASKA STATE COUNCIL

March 18, 2008

Chairman Bob Roses

Members of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

REF: HB405 Forgiveness of a percentage of student loans for a member of the armed forces deployed since 2001

Mr. Chairman:

The Alaska State Council and our many chapters across Alaska strongly support of this legislation.

Vietnam Veterans of America has taken a close look at all of the "new" veteran's organizations sprouting up around our nation and concluded that we will only support the Veterans of Modern Warfare. We have taken this position based on our organizations confidence that this new veterans group, representing all veterans post Vietnam, is a solid, competent, and transparent veteran service organization. It puts its money and human resources in the right place; serving their members and veterans in general.

I placed this opening paragraph here to ensure you know we are working closely with the Veterans of Modern Warfare because many of their members will be the ones who can take advantage of the opportunity offered in HB405. This is an important statement by our State in recognizing those who have volunteered to stand guard for America in the face of a persistent and violent enemy of our way of life.

We have suggested the need for a clarification amendment to the bill to ensure that the members of the U.S. Coast Guard are included in the reach of this legislation. This is due to some ongoing confusion of their inclusion as "members of the armed forces" since their inclusion in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It is my understanding that this amendment will be offered at the committee hearing today.

The number of new Alaskans who are veterans is not yet clearly understood. We hope that with the passage of HB44 "finding our veterans" we will begin to find and understand the nature of our growing veteran community across Alaska. I can only tell you that almost daily we meet new Alaskans and new veterans who have chosen to live in Alaska as a result of their exposure to our great state while in service. They will greatly benefit, as will all of Alaska, with the passage of HB405.

I am not able to testify personally at the hearing today due to a previous medical appointment. But you can be assured that all of our members stand in support of HB405.

Ric Davidge
State Council President

Vietnam Veterans of America Alaska State Council
3705 Arctic Blvd, #548, Anchorage, Alaska 99503



ALASKA VETERANS FOUNDATION

March 18, 2008

Chairman Bob Roses
Members of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

REF: HB405

Mr. Chairman:

The Alaska Veterans Foundation, Inc. representing almost 80,000 Alaskan veterans and their families are in strong support of HB405 and ask you to move this bill forward so that our new veterans can take advantage of this action by our State in recognition of their service and sacrifice.

When a member of the armed services volunteers to stand guard for America they take themselves in many ways out of our communities. This is a service that must be recognized, honored, and rewarded.

As these brave men and women return home, we must do everything we can to help them reenter our communities. The passage of HB405 will financially enable many to obtain a college education at lower cost. This is as it should be.

Also, on behalf of our members, I want to again thank you for the interest and attention your committee has shown this session in the varied issues and challenges Alaskan veterans face. The actions of your committee and the support of the members of your committee will greatly improve the lives of thousands of veterans and their families.

It is an honor,

Ric Davidge, Chairman/CEO



March 18, 2008

Chairman Bob Roses
Members of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

REF: HB405 Forgiveness of a percentage of student loans for a member of the armed forces deployed since 2001

Mr. Chairman:

I am a member of the Veterans of Modern Warfare (VMW) which is endorsed and supported by the Vietnam Veteran of America (VVA). Membership to the VMW is for all veterans and active duty personnel who served from August 20, 1990 to present.

I am in support of HB405 since this will affect members as well as other active duty members and veterans. With all the deployments going on and the troops trying to better themselves with education this is a good bill to pass. We need to do more for our troops and this is one way we can help since we all know their cash flow is very limited. With another deployment coming up in January this is an incentive for the troops who are deployed to continue in their distant education studies while protecting our freedoms.

Thank you,

Tim Wheeler
Veterans of Modern Warfare