

AK LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES SCOMM 149 3243

Jody Simpson

From: Wright, Kristin A (DFG) [kris.wright@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 3:52 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Cc: Barry, Timothy M (DFG)
Subject: Military License

Attachments: 20080131_163448_0937.pdf



20080131_163448_
0937.pdf (80 K...

Jody - attached is the front and back of the sport license. It is somewhat hard to read but the military boxes are in the lower right hand corner of the license in the shaded box. The shaded box indicates that something on the back of the license needs to be filled out before the license can be sold. The nonresident military individuals fill out the box on the back of the license which is in the middle of the right hand side.

Hope this helps explain the process a little better. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Kristin Wright
Finance/Licensing Supervisor
Division of Administrative Services
Department of Fish and Game
907-465-6091

LICENSING SECTION
PO BOX 115525
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5525

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

AA		ALASKA SPORT FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING LICENSE		LICENSE NOT VALID IF PUNCHED MORE THAN ONCE		RES-Resident NR-Nonresident		EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2008	
RES. CLASS 1 Sport Fishing \$24.00	RES. CLASS 2 Hunting \$25.00	RES. CLASS 3A Hunting/Trapping \$34.00	RES. CLASS 3B Trapping \$15.00	RES. CLASS 4 Hunting/Sport Fish \$48.00	RES. CLASS 5 Hunting/Trapping/Sport Fish \$52.00	BUND RES CLASS 1A \$10.25 Sport Fishing	BLIND RES. CLASS 2A \$25.00 Hunting	EXCEPT RESIDENT TRAPPING VALID THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, AND NONRESIDENT CLASSES 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D AND 5E VALID FOR THE SPECIFIED PERIOD ONLY	
APPLICANT'S NAME First		Last		INFORMATION REQUIRED - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY					
PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS									
CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE COUNTRY PHYSICAL ADDRESS									
SEX FM	US CITIZEN YN	BIRTHDATE(MM/DD/YYYY)		DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER State Number		TELEPHONE NUMBER OPTIONAL		ALASKA RESIDENT AS 16.05.418 4 AS 16.06.842: "resident" means: • a person (including an alien) who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home here, has maintained that person's domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license, and is a member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license. A person who does not otherwise qualify as a resident may not qualify by virtue of an interest in an Alaska business. I have personally reviewed the information on the license and I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. My right to obtain or exercise the privileges granted by a sportfishing, hunting, or trapping license is not suspended or revoked in another state. (NOTE: Making a false statement, or omitting a material fact, is subject to a maximum penalty of \$10,000 or 1 year imprisonment, or both, per AS 11.56.210 and AS 16.05.420.)	
X SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE									
CLASS ISSUED		DATE ISSUED MM DD YYYY		VENDOR NUMBER		THE APPLICATION IS EFFECTIVE AS A LICENSE UPON THE SIGNATURE OF THE DULY AUTHORIZED FISH AND GAME VENDOR			
NR CLASS 5A 14-DAY Sport Fishing \$80.00	NR CLASS 6B 3-DAY Sport Fishing \$35.00	NR CLASS 6C 1-DAY Sport Fishing \$20.00	NR CLASS 6D 7-DAY Sport Fishing \$58.00	CLASS 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, and 5E ONLY. This license is valid for the 14/7/3/1 day period: BEGINNING DATE MONTH DAY 2008 END DATE MONTH DAY 2008		NR CLASS 7 14-DAY Sport Fish \$145.00	NR CLASS 8 3-DAY Hunting \$85.00	NR CLASS 9A 2-DAY Big Game \$200.00	
NR CLASS 9 Hunting/ Sportfishing \$230.00	NR CLASS 9C Hunting/ Combination \$140.00	NR CLASS 10 Hunting/Trap \$250.00	NR CLASS 11 Big Game Hunting \$300.00						

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PRESS DOWN FOR CLEAR COPIES
11-176(7/07)

Please complete Section A for Res Class 5A, Section B for dup. lic., Section C for NR Yukon lic, Section D for Mil. Lic only, and Section E. All applicants.

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SPORT FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING.

A. RESIDENT CLASS 5A-\$5.00 LICENSE
This license class applies only to residents of the State of Alaska who are non-military. It is not now nor has it ever been the intent of the Legislature to include military personnel in the Class 5A Hunting, Sport Fishing, and Trapping License.

B. DUPLICATE LICENSE
I hereby report the loss of my current license/tag issued to me in accordance with the Fish and Game Code of Alaska as indicated below:

License/KS tag Class and Type	Number of license/KS tag if known	Date of issuance
Issued By (Name of License Vendor)		Place of issuance

C. NONRESIDENT YUKON RECIPROCAL SPORTFISHING LICENSE CLASS 11
YUKON RESIDENT SPORTFISHING LICENSE NUMBER: _____
YUKON GOVERNMENT ISSUED I.D. NUMBER: _____

D. NONRESIDENT MILITARY CLASSES 12, 13, 14 (MUST BE STATIONED IN ALASKA)

I am entitled to the special nonresident Military License for the following reason:	Branch of Military Service
☐ 1. I am a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska; or	Rank and Serial Number
☐ 2. I am a dependent of a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska.	Assigned Duty Station
NOTE: Please read definition of resident on reverse side to determine residency status.	If a Dependent, Show Relationship

E. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all of the above information is true and correct.
(NOTE: Making a false statement, or omitting a material fact, is subject to a maximum penalty of \$10,000 or 1 year imprisonment, or both, per AS 11.56.210 and AS 16.05.420.)

SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE _____ Date _____

Signature of Licensee _____ Date _____

Disclosure of Facility Surcharges per A.S. 16.05.340: The following amounts will provide for sport fishing facilities and has been applied to sport fishing licenses:
Class 1: \$9; Class 4: \$9; Class 5: \$9; Class 6A: \$30; Class 6B: \$15; Class 6C: \$10; Class 6D: \$25;
Class 7: \$45; Class 9: \$45; Class 11: \$9; Class 12: \$9; Class 14: \$9

Jody Simpson

From: Burnett, Jerry D (DOR) [jerry.burnett@alaska.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 1:41 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: Proposed Legislation regarding Residency Requirements for Hunting/Fishing licenses
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Yellow

Jody,

The residency requirements for permanent fund dividends are very specific and contained in AS 43.23... They would not be affected by a change to the residency requirements for fish and game licenses found in AS 16.05.415. Potential jurors are selected randomly by a computer from the list of all adults who apply for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. Since the change to fish and game license requirements would not affect the eligibility for PFD's it also would not have any effect on jury pools.

Since the proposed change would not affect any of our programs, the Department of Revenue would have no objection to the legislation.

Thank you very much for asking.

Jerry

From: Sen. Charlie Huggins [mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2007 11:14 AM
To: Burnett, Jerry D (DOR)
Subject: Proposed Legislation regarding Residency Requirements for Hunting/Fishing licenses

Good morning, Jerry.

Debbie Grundmann suggested I contact you. Senator Huggins is considering sponsoring legislation that would, if passed, allow military personnel to receive a resident hunting and fishing license immediately upon being stationed here in Alaska instead of having to wait out the 12-month residency requirement.

Would you have any concerns about such legislation relative to other residency requirements in statute? For example, could a change in the license for military personnel affect the permanent fund dividend residency requirements? Are the residency requirements for Fish and Game licenses tied to any other residency requirements, e.g., jury duty?

Would your department support such proposed legislation?

Thank you.

Jody Simpson

Staff to Senator Charlie Huggins
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-4866 / (907) 373-4724 Fax
Jody_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 115525
JUNEAU, AK 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-3276
FAX: (907) 465-2440
E Mail: license_help@fishgame.state.ak.us

Below are some guidelines to help determine whether or not you meet the residency requirements to purchase/receive a State of Alaska resident sport fishing, hunting, trapping, or commercial crewmember license:

Per Alaska Statute 16.05.940(27), resident means, "a person who for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the time when the assertion of residence is made has maintained the person's domicile in the state and who is neither claiming residency in another state, territory, or country nor obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country..."

"Residency" is further defined and explained in Alaska Statute 16.05.415(a) & (b). "(a) a person ... is a resident if the person, (1) is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the state indefinitely and to make a home in the state;

[Note:

- a. you must be physically present in Alaska in order to obtain a resident license.
- b. you must intend to remain in the state indefinitely and to make your true and permanent home in Alaska. Living in Alaska for a short period of time, 6 months or less, and spending the majority of the year somewhere else probably does not constitute the intent to remain indefinitely. Consideration is given to other factors. See below.]

(2) has maintained the person's domicile in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license;

[Note: for the previous 12 consecutive months you must have maintained a livable dwelling in Alaska. Consideration is given to the type of dwelling maintained here vs. the type of dwelling maintained somewhere else.]

(3) is not claiming residency in another state, territory, or country; and

[Note: you cannot have voted as a resident in another state, registered your car or have a driver's license in another state unless required by that state's laws to do so; Alaska law requires that a person who resides in the state and is not employed must register their vehicles in Alaska within 60 days of entering the state in accordance with AS 28.10.212; additionally a person who is employed in Alaska or takes an action that indicates an intention to acquire residence in the state must register their vehicles within 10 days. A person establishing residency in Alaska must obtain an Alaskan drivers license within 90 days and must surrender any out of state drivers license in accordance with AS 28.15.011 & 021. You may not hold a "resident" hunting or fishing license in another state, and may not have held one during the past 12 months.]

(4) is not obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.

[Note: you cannot be claiming residency for COLA retirement benefits in another state, paying resident vs. nonresident taxes in another state, receiving subsidized or free benefits available only to a resident of another state, or gaining any advantage provided to residents of another state, etc.]

(b) A person who establishes residency in the state under (a) of this section remains a resident during an absence from the state unless during the absence the person

(1) establishes or claims residency in another state, territory, or country; or

(2) performs an act, or is absent under circumstances, that are inconsistent with the intent required under (a) of this section.

[Note: You may not have made any public or private declaration that indicates an intent to maintain a domicile anywhere but Alaska.]

"Domicile" is defined in Alaska Statute 16.05.940 as "the true and permanent home of a person from which the person has no present intention of moving and to which the person intends to return whenever the person is away;"

[Note: the purchase of round trip tickets or the making of return plans each time a person travels to Alaska would probably constitute evidence that the person's true and permanent home was elsewhere than Alaska. The location of household goods, the location where the spouse or family members of the household live and work, the location where children attend school, and other factors will also aide in determining where the true and permanent home is.]

Per Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 39.975(30) and 5 AAC 92.990(14), evidence of domicile includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (A) statements made to obtain a license to drive, hunt, fish, or engage in an activity regulated by a government entity;
- (B) affidavit of a person who may know an applicant's domicile;
- (C) place of voter registration;

[Note: see (3) under "Residency" above.]

- (D) location of residence owned, rented, or leased;

[Note: see (1&2) under "Residency" above. The courts also look at the number of months you spend at a domicile located in another state vs. the number of months you spend in Alaska. For example, if you spend 9 months in another state and 3 months in Alaska, your residency in Alaska could be in question and will be taken into consideration along with other factors.]

(E) location of storage of household goods;

[Note: if your household goods are located in another state, it appears that you have not made your home here.]

(F) location of business owned or operated;

[Note: if your business is located in another state, you may need to explain to enforcement how your business is operated. On the other hand, you will not qualify as a resident merely by virtue of an interest in, or employment or contractual association with and Alaska-based business, see AS 16.05.415(g).]

(G) residence of spouse and minor children or dependents;

[Note: You are unlikely to be considered a resident of Alaska if your immediate family is living in another state or claiming another state as their residence while you consider Alaska your home.]

(H) governments to which taxes are paid;

[Note: see (4) under "Residency" above.]

(I) whether the person has claimed residence in another location for the purpose of obtaining benefits provided by the governments in that location."

[Note: see (4) under "Residency" above.]

If you are a member, or a dependent of a member, of the military or U.S. Coast Guard stationed in Alaska, you should also review the provisions of AS 16.05.415(c)-(d) and AS 16.05.940(27(C)-(D)).

If you have any questions about whether or not you meet the residency definition to obtain a sport or commercial crewmember license, please contact your local Department of Public Safety/Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

Jody Simpson

From: Jody Simpson
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 2:05 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430

Sec. 16.05.330. Licenses, tags, and subsistence permits.

(a) Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the appropriate license or tag in actual possession, a person may not engage in

- (1) sport fishing, including the taking of razor clams;
- (2) hunting, trapping, or fur dealing;
- (3) the farming of fish, fur, or game;
- (4) taxidermy; or
- (5) control of nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals for compensation.

(b) When obtaining the appropriate license or tag in (a) of this section, an applicant who asserts residency in the state shall provide the license vendor with the proof of residence that the department requires by regulation.

(c) The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game may adopt regulations providing for the issuance and expiration of subsistence permits for areas, villages, communities, groups, or individuals as needed for authorizing, regulating, and monitoring the subsistence harvest of fish and game. The boards shall adopt these regulations when the subsistence preference requires a reduction in the harvest of a fish stock or game population by nonsubsistence users.

(d) A person may not receive a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license or other permit or tag issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, if the person's right to obtain, or exercise the privileges granted by, a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license is suspended or revoked in another state. A person who applies for a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license or other permit or tag issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 shall sign a statement that the person's right to obtain, or exercise the privileges granted by, a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license is not suspended or revoked in another state.

(e) [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 39 SLA 2001].

Sec. 16.05.331. Elk farming. [Renumbered as AS 16.40.050].

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 16.05.335. Complimentary licenses.

The commissioner shall annually, at the request of the governor, provide the governor with not more than 50 complimentary fishing and hunting licenses and appropriate big game tags which the governor may distribute to distinguished visitors to the state for their use in any one season during their visits to the state. The complimentary license for sport fishing or hunting or both shall be inscribed by the governor with the inclusive dates for its authorized use. The governor shall advise the department on any complimentary issuances, which information shall be available to the public.

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Sec. 16.05.340. License, permit, and tag fees; surcharge; miscellaneous permits to take fish and game.

(a) Fees for licenses, permits, and tags are as follows:

- (1) Resident sport fishing license \$ 15
- However, the fee is 25 cents for a resident who is blind.
- (2) Resident hunting license 25
- (3) Resident hunting and trapping license 39
- (4) Resident trapping license 15
- (5) Resident hunting and sport fishing license 39
- (6) Resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license 53;

- (A) however, the fee is \$5 for an applicant who
 (i) is receiving or has received assistance during the preceding six months under any state or federal welfare program to aid the indigent; or
 (ii) has an annual family gross income of less than \$8,200 for the year preceding application;
 (B) a person paying \$5 for a resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license must provide proof of eligibility under this paragraph when requested by the department.

(7) Nonresident sport fishing license - valid for the period inscribed on the license

- (A) For 14-day license 50
 (B) For seven-day license 30
 (C) For three-day license 20
 (D) For one-day license 10
 (8) Nonresident annual sport fishing license 100
 (9) Nonresident hunting license 85
 (10) [Repealed, Sec. 10 ch 74 SLA 1997].
 (11) Nonresident hunting and trapping license 250
 (12) Fur dealers
 (A) Resident fur dealer biennial license 150
 (B) Nonresident fur dealer biennial license 500
 (13) Taxidermists
 (A) Resident taxidermy biennial license 200
 (B) Nonresident taxidermy biennial license 500
 (14) Aquatic farming triennial license 400
 (15) Nonresident big game tags

A nonresident may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a numbered, nontransferable, appropriate tag, issued under this paragraph. The tag must be affixed to the animal immediately upon capture and must remain affixed until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed, or exported. A tag issued but not used for an animal may be used to satisfy the tagging requirement for an animal of any other species for which the tag fee is of equal or less value.

- (A) Bear, black, each 225
 (B) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 500
 (C) Bison, each 450
 (D) Caribou, each 325
 (E) Deer, each 150
 (F) Elk, each 300
 (G) Goat, each 300
 (H) Moose, each 400
 (I) Sheep, each 425
 (J) Wolf, each 30

A nonresident is not required to have a nonresident wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit.

- (K) Wolverine, each 175
 (L) Musk oxen, each 1,100

(16) Resident big game tags

- (A) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 25

The Board of Game may, by regulation effective for not more than one year, eliminate the resident brown or grizzly bear tag and fee for all or a portion of a game management unit.

- (B) Musk oxen, each 500

However, the Board of Game may by regulation reduce or eliminate the fee for a resident big game tag for musk oxen for an open season.

(17) Waterfowl conservation tag 5

(A) A person may not engage in waterfowl hunting without having the current year's waterfowl tag in the person's actual possession, unless that person

- (i) qualifies for a \$5 license fee under (6) of this subsection;
 (ii) is a resident under the age of 16;
 (iii) is 60 years of age or older and is a resident;
 (iv) is a disabled veteran eligible for a free license under AS 16.05.341.

(B) The Board of Game shall by regulation exempt the requirement of a waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting in areas of the state not likely to benefit from programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2) - (4).

(18) Game farming

(A) Game mammal or game reptile farming biennial license 250

(B) Game bird farming biennial license 50

(19) Nonresident small game hunting license 20

(20) Nonresident alien hunting license 300

A nonresident alien may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a numbered, nontransferable, appropriate tag, issued under (21) of this subsection. The tag must be affixed to the animal immediately upon capture and must remain affixed until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed, or exported. A tag issued but not used for an animal may be used to satisfy the tagging requirement for an animal of any other species for which the tag fee is of equal or less value.

(21) Nonresident alien big game tags

(A) Bear, black, each 300

(B) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 650

(C) Bison, each 650

(D) Caribou, each 425

(E) Deer, each 200

(F) Elk, each 400

(G) Goat, each 400

(H) Moose, each 500

(I) Musk oxen, each 1,500

(J) Sheep, each 550

(K) Wolf, each 50

A nonresident alien is not required to have a nonresident alien wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit.

(L) Wolverine, each 250

(22) Chitina dip net fishing permit no fee

The members of the family of a person who has obtained a Chitina dip net fishing permit are not required to have a Chitina dip net fishing permit while they are engaged in dip net fishing at Chitina if they are engaged in fishing in the presence of the person and the person has the Chitina dip net fishing permit in the person's physical possession. In this paragraph, 'family' means persons who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption and who live in the same household on a permanent basis.

(23) Resident anadromous king salmon tag 10

A resident may not engage in sport fishing for anadromous king salmon without having the current year's anadromous king salmon tag in the resident's actual possession, unless that person

(A) qualifies for a 25 cent license fee under (1) of this subsection;

(B) is under the age of 16;

(C) is 60 years of age or older and has been a resident of the state for at least one year;

(D) is a disabled veteran eligible for a free license under AS 16.05.341; or

(E) qualifies for a \$5 license fee under (6) of this subsection.

(24) Nonresident anadromous king salmon tag - valid for the period inscribed on the tag

(A) for a one-day tag ... 10

(B) for a three-day tag ... 20

(C) for a seven-day tag ... 30

(D) for a 14-day tag ... 50

(E) for an annual tag ... 100;

A nonresident may not engage in sport fishing for anadromous king salmon without having a valid anadromous king salmon tag in the person's actual possession, unless that person is under the age of 16. Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents, who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.415, may obtain an annual nonresident military anadromous king salmon tag for \$20;

(25) Nuisance wild animal control license ... 100.

(26) Fishing services licenses

(A) Sport fishing operator license ... \$100

(B) Sport fishing guide license ... 50

(C) Sport fishing operator and sport fishing guide combined license ... 100

(b) The commissioner may issue without cost a permit to collect fish and game, including fur animals, subject to limitations and provisions that are appropriate, for a scientific, propagative, or educational purpose. The commissioner also may issue without cost a permit for the noncommercial control of nuisance wild birds or nuisance wild small mammals. The commissioner also may issue a permit for the collection of bivalve spat for use in connection with an aquatic farm. In addition, the commissioner shall issue a permit for the collecting of wild fur animals for improving the genetic stock of fur farm animals. Permits issued under this subsection shall be in accordance with current sustained yield management practices for the species of wild game for which the permit is requested. The annual permit fee for an Alaska resident to collect wild fur animals for fur farming purposes is the same as the fee for resident trappers.

(c) The commissioner may issue a duplicate license or a duplicate tag as a replacement for a license or tag issued under (a) of this section. A fee of \$5 shall be charged for each duplicate license or tag; however, a fee of \$2 shall be charged for each duplicate of reduced fee license issued to an indigent or low income person under (a)(6) of this section. The duplicate license or tag may not be issued unless the commissioner or a delegate is satisfied that the original has been lost or destroyed.

(d) Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents, who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.415, may obtain special nonresident military small game and sport fishing licenses at the rates for resident hunting and sport fishing licenses, but may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a regular nonresident hunting license and a numbered, nontransferable appropriate tag, issued at one-half of the nonresident rate, under (a)(15) of this section.

(e) [Repealed, Sec. 27 ch 71 SLA 1986].

(f) [Repealed, Sec. 4 ch 81 SLA 1992].

(g) A hunting, trapping, or fishing license, tag, or permit for which a fee is authorized under this section or for which the fee is waived or modified under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 may be issued only to a natural person.

(h) Subject to regulations adopted by the Board of Game, a person who holds a nuisance wild animal control license may engage in the control of nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals for compensation.

(i) If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon, in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations authorizing residents of Yukon to receive

(1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to residents under (a) and (j) of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and

(2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon tag.

(j) In addition to the fees for a sport fishing license set out in (a) and (d) of this section, each person who purchases a sport fishing license shall pay a sport fishing facility surcharge as set out in this subsection for the purpose of providing funding for sport fishing facilities. A person who is eligible for a \$5 resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license under (a)(6) of this section or a free license under AS 16.05.341 is exempt from payment of the surcharge imposed under this subsection. The surcharge authorized by this subsection shall take effect on the date established by regulation by the commissioner. The authority of the department to collect the surcharge under this subsection terminates on December 31 of the calendar year in which the principal amount of the bonds issued under AS 37.15.765 - 37.15.799, together with the interest on them and any interest owing on unpaid installments of interest, and all other obligations with respect to the bonds, are fully met and discharged. The amount of the surcharge attached to each sport fishing license must be clearly disclosed on the sport fishing license. The amount of the sport fishing facility surcharge to be paid for each sport fishing license is as follows

- (1) resident sport fishing license \$ 9
- (2) resident hunting and sport fishing license 9
- (3) resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license 9
- (4) nonresident 14-day sport fishing license 30
- (5) nonresident seven-day sport fishing license 25
- (6) nonresident three-day sport fishing license 15
- (7) nonresident one-day sport fishing license 10
- (8) nonresident annual sport fishing license 45
- (9) special nonresident military small game and sport fishing license 9

- (10) special nonresident military sport fishing license 9

Sec. 16.05.341. Free license for disabled veterans.

A person may receive a resident hunting and sport fishing license under AS 16.05.340(a)(5) without charge if the

person

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

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

Sec. 16.05.343. Auctions or raffles for big game harvest permits.

(a) The department may donate one bison harvest permit each year for a bison from the Delta bison herd for a competitive auction or raffle. The donation may be made only to a nonprofit corporation established to promote fish and game law enforcement, subject to the terms of a memorandum of understanding developed by the department.

(b) The department may donate four elk harvest permits each year for elk from the Etolin Island herd for competitive auctions or raffles. The donations may be made only to nonprofit corporations based in the state that are established to promote fish and game management of hunted species, translocation of species, and use of fish and game populations for hunting and fishing, subject to the terms of a memorandum of understanding developed by the department.

(c) The department, subject to regulations adopted by the commissioner, may issue, through a competitive auction or raffle, up to two harvest permits each year for each of the following big game species: Dall sheep, bison, musk ox, brown or grizzly bear, moose, caribou, and wolf. Notwithstanding AS 36.30, the department may authorize a qualified organization to conduct the auction or raffle on behalf of the department. If the department does authorize a qualified organization to conduct an auction or raffle for a big game species, the department shall make available to a qualified organization based in the state at least one harvest permit for that species. If the auction or raffle is conducted by a qualified organization, the organization may retain an amount from the gross proceeds of the auction or raffle equal to the administrative cost of the auction or raffle plus an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the net proceeds. The proceeds from the auction or raffle of a big game harvest permit may not be used to make a contribution to any candidate for political office or to any organization supporting or opposing ballot propositions or to pay expenses associated with lobbying the legislature or administration. All proceeds from the auction or raffle of the big game harvest permit less the amount that is retained by a qualified organization under this subsection shall be deposited in the fish and game fund under AS 16.05.100. A person who is issued a big game harvest permit under this subsection shall receive upon the person's request a complimentary hunting license and a big game tag for the big game species for which the big game harvest permit is issued. A hunting license issued under this subsection must bear the inscription "Governor's license" or a similar designation. A person who receives a big game harvest permit, hunting license, or big game tag under this subsection may exercise the privileges conveyed by the permit, license, or tag only in accordance with applicable law. In this subsection, "qualified organization" means a nonprofit corporation established to promote fish and game law enforcement or an organization that is established to promote management of hunted game species and use of game populations for hunting and that complies with applicable laws governing activities under this subsection.

(d) Auctions and raffles of harvest permits authorized under this section are not subject to AS 05.15.

Sec. 16.05.345. Musk oxen. [Repealed, Sec. 4 ch 57 SLA 1980].

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 16.05.346. Permit applications.

(a) If the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or eliminated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the department shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in which applications are received by the department. A person is not eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

(b) The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the department for the hunting of bison is \$10.

(c) Except as provided in (a) and (b) of this section, the permit application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is conducted is \$5.

(d) [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 39 SLA 2001].

ec. 16.05.350. Expiration of licenses, permits, and tags.

(a) Licenses, permits, and tags required under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, except biennial licenses, triennial licenses, the nonresident sport fishing licenses, the resident trapping license, the nonresident

anadromous king salmon tags, the waterfowl conservation tag, and permits having a different specified expiration date, expire at the close of December 31 following issuance.

(b) Biennial licenses expire after December 31 of the year following the year of issuance.

(c) Triennial licenses expire after December 31 of the second year following the year of issuance.

(d) The resident trapping license expires at the close of September 30 of the year following the year in which the license is issued.

(e) The waterfowl conservation tag expires at the close of January 31 of the year following the year of issue of the tag.

Sec. 16.05.360. Commissioner charged with license issuance.

(a) The commissioner or an authorized deputy shall issue each license and tag to a qualified person under written application containing such reasonable information as required by the commissioner. The commissioner shall designate the license and tag form or type. The form or type must be sufficient to identify and locate the applicant and establish the applicant's status as to residency and citizenship. Each application shall be subscribed by the applicant.

(b) [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 39 SLA 2001].

Sec. 16.05.370. Reports by licensees.

(a) The commissioner may require a report to be made by each licensee concerning the time, manner, and place of taking fish and game, the kinds and quantity taken, and other information helpful in administering the fish and game resources of the state.

(b) [Repealed, Sec. 18 ch 37 SLA 1989].

(c) [Repealed, Sec. 18 ch 37 SLA 1989].

Sec. 16.05.380. Commissioner may appoint agents.

The commissioner may appoint state employees or other persons to take applications, issue licenses, permits, and tags, and collect fees. The commissioner is not liable for defalcation or failure to account for the fees collected by any person so appointed, but the commissioner shall require a bond in an adequate sum, conditioned upon faithfully accounting for all money collected. However, the commissioner may waive the bond requirements of an instrumentality of the United States or its agents and employees when the instrumentality or its agents or employees sell licenses, permits, or tags primarily to persons in the armed forces. Each person, upon appointment by the commissioner, may administer oaths on applications for licenses, permits, and tags.

Sec. 16.05.390. Fees and compensation for issuance of licenses, permits, and tags.

(a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, an agent appointed by the commissioner under AS 16.05.380 to sell licenses, permits, and tags is entitled to

(1) retain five percent of the fee that is charged for a license, permit, or tag or 25 cents for each license, permit, or tag sold, whichever is greater; and

(2) compensation of \$50 per year or \$1 for each license, permit, or tag sold during the year, whichever is greater.

(b) Each agent appointed to sell licenses, permits, or tags under AS 16.05.380 shall, as directed by the commissioner, transmit the proceeds from the sales of licenses, permits, and tags, except the amount authorized to be retained under (a)(1) of this section, together with a report of the sales, to the commissioner for deposit in the fish and game fund or the general fund.

(c) On March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year the commissioner shall calculate the compensation earned by an agent under (a)(2) of this section, minus the penalties assessed under (g) of this section. If the compensation due exceeds \$50, the commissioner shall pay the compensation not later than 30 days after the date for which the compensation was calculated. If the compensation due is \$50 or less, the commissioner shall pay the compensation not later than January 30 of the year following the year in which the compensation was earned. The commissioner shall pay compensation only for sales of licenses, permits, or tags for which the commissioner has received the report and proceeds required to be transmitted under (b) of this section.

(d) Compensation provided by this section shall be paid from appropriations made to the department.

(e) The provisions of (a) of this section do not apply to a state employee appointed by the commissioner under AS 16.05.380 to sell licenses, permits, and tags.

(f) Proceeds and reports under (b) of this section shall be transmitted to the commissioner by the last day of the month following the month in which the licenses, permits, and tags are sold, unless an alternative reporting schedule has been established by contract.

(g) The commissioner may assess a penalty against an agent who does not transmit proceeds within the time allowed under (f) of this section. The penalty is equal to one and one-half percent of the amount of proceeds due. The penalty may be assessed for each month or portion of a month that the proceeds are delinquent. A

penalty under this subsection shall be withheld from the agent's compensation under (a)(2) of this section.

Sec. 16.05.395. Sport fishing vessel registration.

For calendar year 2005 and subsequent calendar years, a person may not use a vessel to provide sport fishing services under AS 16.40.260 - 16.40.299 unless the vessel is registered with the department and proof of registration is attached to and clearly visible on the vessel while the vessel is used to provide sport fishing services. The department shall register vessels used to provide sport fishing services, and provide proof of registration, without charge. The department may adopt regulations as the department finds necessary to implement this section.

Sec. 16.05.400. Persons exempt from license requirement.

(a) A license is not required of a resident or nonresident person under the age of 16 years for sport fishing nor is a license required of a resident under the age of 16 for hunting or trapping.

(b) A sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license is not required of a resident who is 60 years of age or more. The commissioner shall issue a permanent identification card without charge to persons who qualify by age and residence and who complete the forms required by the commissioner for implementation of this subsection. A person who is issued a permanent identification card under this subsection shall have it in possession while sport fishing, hunting, or trapping.

Sec. 16.05.403. Special licenses and permits.

(a) A resident hunting license, a resident sport fishing license, a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit indicating that the purchaser is blind may be obtained from the department upon payment of the fee prescribed in AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon presentation of either an affidavit of the applicant stating that the applicant cannot distinguish light from darkness or an affidavit signed by a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist stating that the applicant's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or that the applicant's widest diameter of visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

(b) A resident who is a person with physical disabilities may obtain from the department upon payment of the fee prescribed in AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon submission of satisfactory proof of physical disabilities a resident hunting license, a resident sport fishing license, a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit indicating that the purchaser is a person with physical disabilities.

(c) A resident who is 65 years of age or older may obtain from the department upon payment of the fee prescribed in AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon submission of satisfactory proof of age a resident hunting license, a resident sport fishing license, a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit indicating that the purchaser is a person who is 65 years of age or older. This subsection does not limit the right of a resident person who is 65 years of age or older to claim an exemption from hunting or sport fishing license requirements under AS 16.05.400(b).

Sec. 16.05.405. Taking fish and game by proxy.

(a) Subject to regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game to implement this section, including regulations relating to or restricting seasons, areas, methods and means, and species, a resident may take fish or game harvested primarily for food on behalf of another person under this section.

(b) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.420(c), a resident holding a valid resident hunting license may take game on behalf of a person who is blind, a person with physical disabilities, or a person who is 65 years of age or older if the resident possesses on the resident's person

(1) a document signed by the person on whose behalf the game is taken, stating that the resident possesses the person's hunting license or permanent identification card in order to take game on behalf of that person; and

(2) the person's

(A) resident hunting license issued under AS 16.05.403 or permanent identification card issued under AS 16.05.400(b); and

(B) harvest ticket, tag, stamp, or other document required by law as a condition of taking the game being hunted.

(c) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.420(c), a resident holding a valid noncommercial fishing license may take fish on behalf of a person who is blind, a person with physical disabilities, or a person who is 65 years of age or older if the resident possesses on the resident's person

(1) a document signed by the person on whose behalf the fish is taken, stating that the resident possesses the person's sport fishing license, subsistence fishing permit, personal use fishing permit, or permanent identification card in order to take fish on behalf of that person;

(2) the person's

(A) resident sport fishing license issued under AS 16.05.403 or permanent identification card issued under

AS 16.05.400(b);

(B) resident subsistence fishing permit issued under AS 16.05.403; or

(C) resident personal use fishing permit issued under AS 16.05.403; and

(3) all other documents issued to the person that are required by law as a condition of taking the fish being pursued.

(d) A resident who takes fish or game on behalf of another person under this section may, subject to applicable regulations of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game, take the fish or game only under those conditions that would apply to the other person if the other person took the fish or game personally.

(e) A resident who takes, or attempts to take, fish or game on behalf of a person under this section may also simultaneously engage in fishing or hunting for the resident's use; however, the resident may not take or attempt to take fish or game by proxy for more than one person at a time. For the purposes of this subsection, a resident is engaged in taking, or attempting to take, fish or game by proxy while the resident has possession of

(1) another person's

(A) license, permit, or identification card and all other documents issued to the person that are required by law as a condition of taking the fish or game being pursued; and

(B) signed document under (b)(1) or (c)(1) of this section; or

(2) fish or game taken on behalf of another person.

(f) A resident who takes fish or game on behalf of another person under this section shall

(1) complete reports relating to the taking of the fish or game as required by the commissioner of fish and game under AS 16.05.370;

(2) deliver all parts of fish and game removed from the field to the person on whose behalf the fish or game was taken within a reasonable time after the fish or game is taken; and

(3) until the fish or game is delivered to the person on whose behalf the fish or game was taken, retain the person's

(A) license or permit and all other documents issued to the person that are required by law as a condition of taking the fish or game; and

(B) signed document required under (b)(1) or (c)(1) of this section.

Sec. 16.05.407. Nonresident hunting big game animals must be accompanied.

(a) It is unlawful for a nonresident to hunt, pursue, or take brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep in this state, unless personally accompanied by

(1) a person who is licensed as

(A) a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter under AS 08.54 and who is providing big game hunting services to the nonresident under a contract with the nonresident; or

(B) a class-A assistant guide or an assistant guide under AS 08.54 and who is employed by a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter who has a contract to provide big game hunting services to the nonresident; or

(2) a resident over 19 years of age who is

(A) the spouse of the nonresident; or

(B) related to the nonresident, within and including the second degree of kindred, by marriage or blood.

(b) An applicant for a nonresident big game tag for the taking of an animal specified in (a) of this section shall first furnish to the state, on a form provided by the state, an affidavit showing that the applicant will be personally accompanied while hunting by a person who is qualified under the terms of (a) of this section. A person who falsifies the required affidavit is guilty of perjury under AS 11.56.200.

(c) [Repealed, Sec. 27 ch 71 SLA 1986].

(d) A nonresident who violates (a) of this section, or who fails to furnish an affidavit under (b) of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both.

(e) [Repealed, Sec. 18 ch 37 SLA 1989].

(f) An applicant for a nonresident hunt permit for the taking of an animal specified in (a) of this section shall, if requested by the department, first furnish to the department proof of prior authorization to use federal, state, or private land where the permit hunt will occur. The authorization shall be provided to the applicant by the registered guide-outfitter or master guide-outfitter with whom the applicant has contracted to guide the permit hunt.

Sec. 16.05.408. Nonresident alien hunter to be accompanied by guide.

(a) It is a class A misdemeanor for a nonresident alien to hunt, pursue, or take a big game animal as defined by the Board of Game unless personally accompanied by

(1) a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter licensed under AS 08.54 who is providing big game hunting services to the nonresident alien under a contract with the nonresident alien; or

(2) a class-A assistant guide or an assistant guide licensed under AS 08.54 who is employed by a

registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter who has a contract to provide big game hunting services to the nonresident alien.

(b) A nonresident alien, when purchasing a big game tag for the taking of an animal specified in (a) of this section, shall first furnish to the state, on a form provided by the state, an affidavit showing that the nonresident alien will be accompanied in the hunt by a person who is qualified under the terms of (a) of this section. A nonresident alien shall have a copy of the affidavit in possession while in the field hunting. A person who falsifies the required affidavit is guilty of perjury under AS 11.56.200.

(c) Before obtaining a nonresident hunt permit for the taking of an animal specified in (a) of this section, a nonresident alien shall, if requested by the department, first furnish to the department proof of prior authorization to use federal or private land where the permit hunt will occur. The authorization shall be provided to the nonresident alien by the registered guide-outfitter or master guide-outfitter with whom the nonresident alien has contracted to guide the permit hunt.

Sec. 16.05.410. Revocation of license.

(a) Upon conviction of a person of a first violation of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 or of a federal or state law or regulation for the protection of the sport fish and game of the state, the court may, in addition to the penalty imposed by law, revoke the person's license.

(b) Upon subsequent conviction of a person for a violation of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 or of a federal or state law or regulation for the protection of the sport fish and game of the state, the court shall revoke the person's license.

(c) A person whose license has been revoked as provided in (b) of this section may not purchase another license of the same type for a period of not less than two years nor more than three years from the date of revocation as determined by the court.

(d) [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 32 SLA 1968].

(e) [Repealed, Sec. 2 ch 32 SLA 1968].

(f) Except as provided in (g) of this section, the provisions of (a) - (c) of this section do not apply when the offense for which the person is convicted is a misdemeanor for which a forfeitable bail amount has been set under AS 16.05.165.

(g) When a person has been convicted during a two year period of two or more misdemeanor offenses for which a forfeitable bail amount has been set under AS 16.05.165, a peace officer may file a civil action in the district court to revoke the person's license. Once an action has been filed, the court shall set a time and date for a hearing on the proposed license revocation, and shall send notice of the hearing to the person. The hearing shall be before the court without a jury. At the hearing the court shall hear evidence regarding the nature and seriousness of the offenses for which the person was convicted, the time period involved, the potential effect of the person's actions upon the preservation of the resource, and other relevant circumstances. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the person's actions demonstrate a disregard for the preservation of the state's fish or wildlife resources, the court may revoke the person's license for a period of not less than one year nor more than three years from the date of revocation.

Sec. 16.05.415. Determination of residency.

(a) In AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, a person, except as provided in (c) - (f) of this section, is a resident if the person

(1) is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the state indefinitely and to make a home in the state;

(2) has maintained the person's domicile in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license;

(3) is not claiming residency in another state, territory, or country; and

(4) is not obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.

(b) A person who establishes residency in the state under (a) of this section remains a resident during an absence from the state unless during the absence the person

(1) establishes or claims residency in another state, territory, or country; or

(2) performs an act, or is absent under circumstances, that are inconsistent with the intent required under (a) of this section.

(c) A person who is a member of the military service or the United States Coast Guard is a resident for the purposes of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 if the person has been stationed in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license. This subsection does not apply to a person who establishes and maintains residency in the state under (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) A person who is the dependent of a resident member of the military service or the United States Coast Guard under (a) or (c) of this section is a resident for the purposes of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 if the person has lived in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license. This subsection does not apply to a person who establishes and maintains residency in the state under (a) and (b) of

this section.

- (e) A person who is an alien is a resident for the purposes of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 if the person
 - (1) is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the state indefinitely and to make a home in the state;
 - (2) has maintained the person's domicile in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license;
 - (3) is not claiming residency in another state, territory, or country; and
 - (4) is not obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.
- (f) In AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, a person who is not a natural person, other than a sole proprietorship, establishes residency by maintaining its main office or headquarters in the state and providing proof, satisfactory to the commissioner, of that fact to the department or an agent of the department upon demand. A sole proprietorship has the same residency as the person, whether natural or otherwise, who is the proprietor of the entity. The commissioner may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this subsection.
- (g) A natural person who does not qualify as a resident under (a) - (e) of this section does not qualify as a resident by virtue of an interest in a resident business entity under (f) of this section.
- (h) In AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, a nonresident
 - (1) person is a person who does not qualify as a resident under (a) - (f) of this section; and
 - (2) alien is an alien person who does not qualify as a resident under (e) of this section.
- (i) In this section, "license" means a license, tag, permit, stamp, identification card, or other indicia of permission to engage in an activity subject to AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430.

Sec. 16.05.420. License, tag, permit, and registration violations.

- (a) A false statement of a material fact in an application for a license, tag, permit, and sport fishing vessel registration issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 voids the license, tag, permit, or registration for which the application is made.
- (b) A person may not make a false statement, or omit a material fact, in an application for a license, tag, permit, or sport fishing vessel registration issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430. A person who without any culpable mental state makes a false statement as to the person's identity or residency in an application for a license, tag, permit, or sport fishing vessel registration issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 is guilty of a violation and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$300. A person who knowingly violates this subsection is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- (c) A person to whom a license, tag, or sport fishing vessel registration has been issued under this chapter may not alter, change, loan, or transfer the license, tag, or sport fishing vessel registration. A person may not use a license, tag, or sport fishing vessel registration that has been issued under this chapter to another person.

Sec. 16.05.430. Penalties.

- (a) Except as provided in AS 16.05.407(b) and (d), 16.05.408(b), and 16.05.420(b), a person who violates AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.420 or a regulation adopted under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.420 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.
- (b) The proceeds of all fines shall be transmitted by the court to the proper state officer for deposit in the general fund of the state.

 State of Alaska → DMVA → Veterans Affairs

Search Veterans Affairs

Office of Veterans Affairs

State Benefits

This description of benefits for Alaska's Veterans and their spouses and dependants was developed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to make veterans aware of the benefits the state offers and to illustrate that the benefits are from different state departments. The best way to determine if you qualify for a certain benefit is to reach the person or program throughout the contact information provided.

- **Employment Preference Rights**
- **Veterans Employment Services**
- **Affirmative Action Plan**
- **Recording Veterans Report of Separation Form**
- **Veterans Land Discount/Purchase Preference**
- **Property Tax Exemptions**
- **Disabled Veterans Parking Permits**
- **Veterans License Plates**
- **Veterans Housing and Residential Loans**
- **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**
- **State Camping Pass**
- **Alaska Marine Highway Pass**
- **Free Tuition for Spouse or Dependent of Armed Services Member**
- **Military Credit Towards State Retirement**
- **Birthday Cards from the Governor**
- **Governor's Advocacy Award**
- **High School Diplomas**
- **Military and Veterans Memorial Landmark Property**
- **Wartime Letters - The Legacy Project**

Alaska State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Alaska provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Alaska Veteran Housing Programs

Veterans Land Discount/Purchase Preference

The Veterans Land Discount program allows certain veterans to a 25% discount on the purchase price of state residential/recreational land. The discount may be used only once during the veteran's lifetime and may not be used in conjunction with the veterans preference.

Under the Veterans Land Sale Preference, before offering to the general public any unoccupied residential land by auction, a veteran has the exclusive opportunity purchase the land at a restricted sale at fair appraised market value. Parcels that are offered under this preference must be five acres or less, classified as settlement land and zoned for residential use only.

Property Tax Exemptions

Real property owned and occupied as the primary residence and permanent place of abode by a qualified disabled veteran whose disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and whose disability has been rated as 50 percent or more by the military service or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is exempt from taxation on the first \$150,000.00 of assessed valuation. Contact your local municipal tax assessor's office by March 15 for exemption for current year.

Veterans Housing and Residential Loans

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administers the Veterans Mortgage Program which offers financing for qualified veterans at lower interest rates. Active duty service in the Armed Forces, Public Health Service, NOAA or service as a cadet at the US Military, Air Force, Coast Guard or Naval Academy may qualify. Loans are generally processed rapidly, require little or no down payment, and often include lower interest.

AHFC also offers a Veterans Interest Rate Preference, in which a veteran receives a one percent lower interest rate on the bank loan when purchasing a new home. Ask the bank handling the financing to implement this program for you. AHFC grants a preference to veterans for the rent or sale of a portion of its low cost housing projects units.

Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home (AVPH)

The AVPH at Palmer provides high-quality, long-term assisted-living care for Alaska residents who are honorably discharged veterans. The newly remodeled Home will serve 59 veteran pioneers (over 65) and 20 non-veteran pioneers. Residents receive comprehensive personal care specifically tailored to each individual. Veterans are eligible for a per diem payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs that is applied towards their cost of care.

Alaska Veteran Employment Programs

Employment Preference Rights

Workplace Alaska in the Division of Personnel in the Department of Administration is the on-line recruitment process for all the states classified service positions. Every vacancy in the classified service, except those requiring registration with Job Service, are posted on the homepage and are available for on-line application. Vacancies are advertised in the Sunday editions of the Fairbanks News Miner, Juneau Empire, and Anchorage Daily News along with recruitment phone lines.

Veterans who possess the necessary qualifications for a given state job classification and served on active duty and received an honorable or general discharge during the dates listed on the employment application, are eligible for a state employment hiring preference.

Veterans Employment Services

The Veterans Services Section of the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development promotes employment, economic stability, and growth by operating a no-fee labor exchange that meets the needs of employers, job seekers, and veterans. The service provides job placement, job matching and referral, vocational counseling, and job search assistance.

Military Credit Towards State Retirement

Certain members of the various state retirement programs may be eligible for additional credit for up to five years military service. Military service will increase your retirement service and monthly benefits. Although military service is not membership service, in certain cases it may count toward vesting and retirement eligibility. Visit site below, click on the retirement system of interest, scroll to Military Credit.

In the National Guard and Naval Militia Retirement System, anyone with at least 20 years of combined Alaska guard service, guard service in any other state, active military service and the reserves of them, of which at least 5 years must have been satisfactory service in any branch, may receive a small benefit upon separation from the Alaska army guard, air guard, or naval militia if you meet minimum eligibility provisions.

Affirmative Action Plan

The State of Alaska 1998 Affirmative Action Plan affords all present and prospective state employees in the executive branch an equal opportunity for employment regardless of their veteran's status - among many other factors.

The state will ensure there are no impermissible or artificial barriers for veterans or disabled veterans to cross in applying for state jobs, provide on-the-job training and assistance in locating qualified disabled applicants, recruit and employ qualified persons with disabilities and Vietnam era vets for state jobs, and sets up an informal complaint procedure. The plan is administered by the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity in the Division of Personnel.

Alaska Education Benefits

Free Tuition for Spouse or Dependent of Armed Services Member

The spouse or dependent of an armed services member who died in the line of duty or who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of duty or who was listed by the Department of Defense as a Prisoner of War or as Missing in Action is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees the students must be in good standing in a state supported educational institution in Alaska.

High School Diplomas

Operation Recognition, a nation-wide effort, recognizes that many World War II veterans went off to war and never returned to high school to get a diploma.

In Alaska, the Department of Education and Early Development may award diplomas to World War II vets living in Alaska, including Alaska Territorial Guard members, who served during the period of August 7, 1940 to July 5, 1947 and were honorably discharged or died in active service or were released from active duty because of a service-related disability. A family member may apply on behalf of a veteran who is deceased or incapacitated. Even ex-GIs with a Graduation Equivalency Diploma could apply.

Other Alaska State Veteran Benefits

Recording Veterans Report of Separation Form

A veteran may record, without fee, the original or a certified copy of his or her Armed Forces Report of Separation (DD-214 Form) at any State Recorder's office of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Recorder's office maintains 14 District offices throughout the state, overseeing 34 recording districts that record, index, and archive all of the documents that create the Official Public Record of the state of Alaska.

Disabled Veterans Parking Permits

Disabled Parking Permits are also obtained from the DMV, available to persons at least 50 percent disabled or medically handicapped, including persons disabled in the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Applicants must show reception of at least 50 percent disability compensation from an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in Alaska.

Veterans License Plates

Veterans License Plates, with the word 'veteran' and the symbol of each branch of service, are available from the Division of Motor Vehicles upon submission of written proof of veteran status for a \$30 biennially fee. Alaska National Guard members may also purchase special plates for \$30. Pearl Harbor Survivors, former POWs, and Purple Heart recipients may receive a special plate at no charge. A Disabled Veteran can register one vehicle without charge and receive a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition of the disabled veteran. With proof, persons disabled in the line of duty, who are 50 percent disabled or medically handicapped as a consequence of military service, are eligible. The plate does not display the standard handicap symbol and does not carry with it special parking privileges; however the standard wheelchair logo may be available depending upon the level of disability as described below. Gold Star Family members may also register one vehicle without charge for license plates through the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Resident hunting and sport fishing licenses are available at no charge to honorably discharged veterans with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability and Alaska residency. Applicants must have lived in Alaska for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application.

State Camping Pass

The legislature granted Disabled Alaskan Veterans (DAV) the right to receive one Alaska State Park Camping Pass free of charge. The DAV Camping Pass, which is valid in all developed Alaska State Park campgrounds, is good for two years.

To receive a free DAV camping pass, an eligible disabled veteran must present proof of a service connected disability and Alaska residency at either the Anchorage or Fairbanks DNR Public Information Centers (see below). Proof of residency can be in the form of an Alaskan Driver's License, Alaska Sport Fishing License, Alaska Voters Registration Card, or other documentation suitable to the department that proves Alaska residency.

Alaska Marine Highway Pass

A one-year pass on the ferries of the Alaska Marine Highway is available for veterans having a service-related disability. This pass entitles the disabled passenger and an attendant (if required by a physician) to travel at 50% of the regular passenger fare, between Alaska ports only, on all vessels, year-round.

Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award

Individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary personal concern, compassion, and commitment to veteran causes, veterans, and their families are eligible for the annual Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award. A winner could also have formed a new, innovative or creative volunteer program or project that benefits vets. Accomplishments must have been performed on a volunteer basis. Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award will be presented on Veterans Day, November 11th.

Military and Veterans Memorial Landmark Property

The Military and Veterans Landmark Property Program formally recognize memorials around the state built to honor the military and veterans of the armed forces. Information about the memorials is important to understanding the sacrifices made by veterans in Alaska and America, the role of the military, and the history of our nation's wars.

Information about memorials will be preserved by the State of Alaska as an important part of its history. A record of each approved Landmark Property will be maintained by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, including a list of properties to be kept, to facilitate visitation to memorials for those interested in doing so. The state will provide an attractive, numbered certificate, suitable for framing, at no cost.

Wartime Letters - The Legacy Project

The Legacy Project is a unique and meaningful way to honor all veterans by preserving letters written by soldiers on the front and letters written to them from home.

A national, volunteer non-profit agency, known as The Legacy Project, began collecting letters from any American wartime period to preserves these treasured documents and therefore heighten appreciation of them.

Letters can be ones personally written or received, or written by a relative. These may include eyewitness accounts of battles or acts of heroism, encounters with famous military leaders, love letters, or any other irreplaceable messages or little-known stories that will offer historians and future generations a better understanding of those who served and sacrificed for country.

Birthday Cards from the Governor

Birthday greetings from the Governor are available to veterans 80 years and older. Veterans or family or friends of veterans should contact the governor's office at least four weeks in advance and supply the name and address of the person to receive the card and appropriate proof of age.

LAW OFFICES

BIRCH, HORTON, BITTNER AND CHEROT

1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 1200 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • TELEPHONE (202) 659-5800 •

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MICHAEL J. PARISE
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ELISABETH H. ROSS**

OF COUNSEL
JENNIFER C. ALEXANDER
SHELLEY D. EBENAL
KENNETH E. VASSAR

1127 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3399
(907) 276-1560
FACSIMILE (907) 276-3880

* D.C. BAR
* D.C. AND ALASKA BAR
* MARYLAND BAR
* VIRGINIA BAR
ALL OTHERS ALASKA BAR

Pertains to
original
version
of SB 214

February 7, 2008

Honorable Charlie Huggins
Alaska Senate
State Capitol
Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

FEB 12 2008

Re: SB 214

Dear Senator Huggins:

On behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA), we have reviewed SB 214 relating to special nonresident military hunting and sport fishing licenses for members of the military who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.415. We conclude that this bill represents a threat to the guide requirement in State law for non-resident hunting of bears and other big game species. This conclusion arises from analysis of the bill and review of applicable case law. However, an amendment to the bill which determined that military personnel (but not their dependents) who have been in the State for some extended period (e.g., one year or longer) might be treated as quasi-residents would redress some of these concerns. In addition, specific findings that military training provides sufficient assurance that these "quasi-residents" do not necessarily require the services of a licensed guide for safety and other purposes could be helpful. Such express findings would in effect recognize qualified military personnel as a special class deserving special treatment. Basing the proposed exception on such special considerations would make it less likely that it could be used to attack the guide requirements for other non-residents.

Alaska's guide requirement is predicated on considerations of hunter welfare and safety, resource management, and enforcement of hunting regulations. AS 16.05.407-408. Federal and state courts have upheld as legitimate and rational similar restrictions concerning nonresident hunters. See *O'Brien v. State*, 711 P.2d 1144, 1151 (Wyo. 1986) (upholding guide requirement for hunting big or trophy game as rational means of ensuring "proper game management, protection of hunter welfare and safety, or better enforcement of the game [and] fish laws"); *Clajon Production Corp. v. Petera*, 854 F.Supp 843 (D. Wyo. 1994) (upholding a resident license preference regulation that reserved a certain percentage of big game hunting licenses for state residents); *DeMasters v. State*, 656 F.Supp. 21 (D. Mont. 1986) (upholding Montana statute limiting the number

Honorable Charlie Huggins
February 7, 2008
Page 2

of yearly nonresident elk hunting licenses as an effective management tool for the purpose of wildlife conservation). The State has consistently maintained that the guide requirement is not motivated by economic protectionism.

Any action that says, in essence, that these considerations of public safety and resource management are not legitimate and compelling (and are waived) with respect to one group of nonresidents (military members and dependents of military members on active duty and permanently stationed in Alaska) but are compelling with regard to all other nonresidents, weakens the rational basis of the requirement. As a result, differential treatment of all non-resident military on active duty and stationed in the State (regardless of how long they have been in the State) and their dependents is likely to expose Alaska's guide requirement to federal constitutional equal protection challenge. While the right of nonresidents to hunt on equal footing with residents is not itself protected by the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the Constitution, *see Baldwin v. Fish and Game Commissioner of Montana*, 436 U.S. 371, 388 (1978), a court may look into the reason behind the distinction. Courts are generally likely to find distinctions related to public safety or resource management to be reasonable but distinctions based on economic protectionism are suspect.

SB 214 would establish such differential treatment. The measure would amend AS 16.05.407 to eliminate the guide requirement for both non-resident military members and their dependents hunting brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep if those military members are on active duty and permanently stationed in Alaska.

This raises a significant issue. Exempting a specific group of persons from the nonresident guide requirement based on nothing more than their status as members of the military and dependents of military members raises questions about the basis for retaining guide requirements for other nonresidents. If the State intends to argue that the objectives of public safety and resource management related to big game hunting are the purposes of the guide requirement for nonresidents, exempting certain nonresidents for no reason other than their military status, with no particular showing that the exemption furthers resource management and safety, indicates that commercial or economic purposes are the remaining rationales for guide requirements for other nonresidents. Once guide requirements are rendered fundamentally commercial, these requirements become subject to attack under a commerce clause analysis. *See Conservation Force*, 301 F.3d 985 (9th Cir. 2002). The Ninth Circuit has struck down nonresident guide requirements under the Commerce Clause. *See Id.*; *see also O'Brien* at 1152.

In 2005, Congress passed the Reaffirmation of State Regulation of Resident and Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Act ("Reaffirmation Act"), which disclaimed Federal interest in regulating taking of fish and wildlife within individual states, leaving it to the

Honorable Charlie Huggins

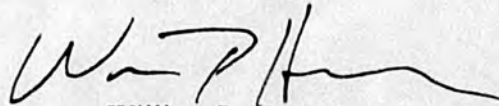
February 7, 2008

Page 3

states to regulate hunting. As a result, some Courts since have dismissed challenges to measures that are claimed to impose differential burdens on residents and nonresidents with regard to hunting. *See, e.g., Minnesota ex rel. Hatch v. Hoeven*, 456 F.3d 826, 831-32 (8th Cir. 2006) (holding as moot a Commerce Clause challenge to North Dakota regulations imposing a more restrictive hunting regime on nonresidents and finding that, since the Reaffirmation Act, it was no longer the case the Congress had not spoken, which was a requirement for the Commerce Clause to apply). Even with such beneficial precedent on the books, it is far from certain that a Court would find a Commerce Clause challenge to the guide requirement moot or meritless, as the case law interpreting the Reaffirmation Act is not yet highly developed. Furthermore, a Court viewing the guide requirement as an economic measure rather than a resource management and public safety measure would be more likely to strike it down on other grounds than the Commerce Clauses since, as noted above, a Court is generally less likely to find the guide requirement to be justified if it is motivated by economic protectionism rather than public safety or resource management.

We recognize and agree with the desire to avoid imposing undue burdens on our military members, and to acknowledge and honor them for their service. However, to preserve the constitutionality of Alaska's guide requirement for non-resident hunters, we would strongly counsel against authorizing any exception to the guide requirement for both nonresident military and their dependents. If exceptions are warranted, they must be clearly predicated on the unique status of military personnel, their training, and other factors.

Sincerely,



William P. Horn
Counsel to Alaska Professional
Hunters Association

cc: Bobby Fithian
Joe Klutsch

Jody Simpson

From: Vikki and Doug Gross [dvgalaska@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 12:51 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB 214
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Yellow

Senator-

While I support the members of our military, I feel that to grant them special priveleges for hunting Alaska big game as residents is going too far. They are volunteers in the military; they are not there because they were forced to be.

This bill would give them an unfair advantage over other non-resident hunters, and add additional pressure to already limited resources. The military supplies them with housing, and other perks civilians don't get, and this amounts to another giveaway of state resources to a special interest group.

Sincerely,
Vikki Gross

1/28/2008

Jody Simpson

From: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 5:13 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: FW: New Pom:SB 214 Hunting By Members Of The Military

Karen Sawyer, Staff
Office of Senator Charlie Huggins

907-465-3878 Main
907-465-3265 Fax
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau AK 99801

-----Original Message-----

From: Shay Wilson
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:08 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: New Pom:SB 214 Hunting By Members Of The Military

Arthur Wettanen
Po Box 509

Talkeetna 99676,
733-2801

There should be a 30 day minimum waiting period to qualify for resident hunting rates by military.

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Press Archive

State of Alaska > Governor > News > News Archive

Gov. Highlights Big Game Hunting to Troops

07-188 Governor Palin Highlights Hunting Opportunities to Returning Alaska Troops

September 6, 2007, Juneau, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today informed Alaska National Guardsmen and women serving in combat that big game hunting opportunities will be available when they return from combat zones this fall.

"I heard from many Alaskans serving overseas during my trip to Kuwait in July," said Governor Palin. "One of the most frequent questions was about the status of hunting seasons upon their return. While I can't grant our troops the chance to hunt in closed areas or in places with species restrictions, I do want to recognize them and help them hunt this late fall or winter when they get home."

Regulations adopted by the Board of Game affect hunters with Tier II subsistence permits and Alaska's drawing hunt permits. In a letter to the commanders of the Alaska Army and Air National Guard, the Governor also explained that service members unable to participate in hunts themselves may transfer Tier II subsistence permits to substitute Alaska hunters. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will also re-issue permits for service members who were successful in obtaining lottery permit hunts but were unable to use them.

Service members are encouraged to contact their local ADF&G office to learn more about the hunting opportunities that may be available to them. Information may also be found at the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation web site:

<http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.main###>

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Governor Palin

find



Photo archive: Governor Sarah Palin and Lt. Governor Sean Parnell welcome the President of Iceland, H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, to the Arctic Energy Summit at the Egan Center in Anchorage on Monday. The Summit, presented by the Institute of the North, kicked off a four-day visit to Alaska by the Icelandic head of state and leaders in his nation's geothermal and hydroelectric energy industries.

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SB 214 – Military Hunting

WITNESS LIST:

1. Kevin Saxby, Senior Assistant Attorney General
State of Alaska, Department of Law
Civil Division, Natural Resources Section

On line to answer questions
269-5250

2. Kristin Wright, Finance/Licensing Supervisor
State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game
Division of Administrative Services

Present to answer questions

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate District H
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654
907-376-4866
907-373-4724 :Fax



State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-3878
Fax: 907-465-3265
800-862-3878

Charlie Huggins Senator

MEMORANDUM

March 26, 2008

To: Representative Bob Roses
House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

From: Senator Charlie Huggins *Jody Simpson for Senator Huggins*

Subject: Hearing Request for SB 214

This is a request that you schedule a hearing on SB 214, "An Act relating to big game hunting by nonresident members of the military service or the United States Coast Guard, and their dependents; and providing for an effective date." This bill is a top priority of mine, so if you could schedule a hearing on the bill early next week, I would greatly appreciate it.

I have attached a copy of the bill, a sponsor statement, a witness list, and some background information for your use.

If you have questions regarding the bill, please contact Jody Simpson in my office at ext. 2661.

Thank you.

Attachments

SCOMM

149:13

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPC T

Date Referred to Committee: February 29, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: March 25, 2008

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: SCR 18 am

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18 am

DECORATION OF HONOR

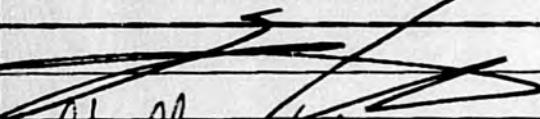
Awarding the Alaska Decoration of Honor to certain members of the military.

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
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
		KAWASAKI			☒	
Chad L.D.		LEDDOIT	☒			
Amy Datta		Datta	☒			
Ben Brown		KAMRAT	☒			
Chair: Bob Kern		Rogers	☒			
Chair:						

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Senate Resources Committee

•
Senate Judiciary Committee

•
Senate Transportation Committee



Session:
State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Interim:
716 W. 4th Ave, Rm. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120
Fax: (907) 269-0120

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

March 18, 2008

Representative Bob Roses, Chair
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
Room 416, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I respectfully request a hearing on SCR 18, a resolution naming the first recipients of the Alaska Decoration of Honor.

A small token to thank the servicemen and women who have given ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms, the Decoration of Honor was created in 2007 to honor Alaskans who were killed in action or in support of combat. The bill also created the Alaska Decoration of Honor Roll, maintained by the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, from which the names on SCR 18 are pulled. This resolution is required by the enabling legislation to present the award.

SCR 18 passed the Senate unanimously and currently has 17 co-sponsors.

Thank you for your speedy consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Bill Wielechowski

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Senate Resources Committee

•
Senate Judiciary Committee

•
Senate Transportation Committee



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Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120
Fax: (907) 269-0120

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

SCR 18: Decoration of Honor Sponsor Statement

SCR 18 names the first recipients of the Alaska Decoration of Honor. The Decoration of Honor was created in 2007 to honor Alaskans who were killed in action or in support of combat, a small token to thank the servicemen and women who have given ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms. The bill also created the Alaska Decoration of Honor Roll, maintained by the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, from which the names on SCR 18 are pulled. This resolution is required by the enabling legislation to present the award.

Please join me in supporting this legislation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18 am
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Therriault, Wilken, Elton, McGuire, Ellis, Thomas, Dyson, Davis, Wagoner, Bunde, Kookesh, Stevens, Green, Stedman, Huggins, French

REPRESENTATIVE Dahlstrom

Amended: 2/21/08
Offered: 2/19/08

A RESOLUTION

1 **Awarding the Alaska Decoration of Honor to certain members of the military.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Decoration of Honor was established to honor individuals
4 who were killed on or after the date Alaska achieved statehood in military actions while
5 serving the United States;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature awards the Alaska Decoration
7 of Honor to the following individuals:

- 8 (1) Shawn G. Adams;
9 (2) Jesse Bryon Albrecht;
10 (3) Christopher M. Alcozer;
11 (4) Eugene Henry Eli Alex;
12 (5) Charles D. Allen;
13 (6) Carl Anderson Jr.;
14 (7) Thomas Edward Anderson;
15 (8) Kurtis Dean Kama-O-Apelila Arcala;
16 (9) Brian D. Ardron;

- 1 (10) Michael Dean Banta;
- 2 (11) Edward Nasuesak Barr;
- 3 (12) Thomas M. Barr;
- 4 (13) Daniel D. Bartels;
- 5 (14) Richard Gene Bauer;
- 6 (15) Ryan J. Baum;
- 7 (16) Shane R. Becker;
- 8 (17) Larry LeRoy Betts;
- 9 (18) Jeffery Dean Bisson;
- 10 (19) Alan R. Blohm;
- 11 (20) Jeremiah J. Boehmer;
- 12 (21) Matthew Charles Bohling;
- 13 (22) Matthew T. Bolar;
- 14 (23) John G. Borbonus;
- 15 (24) Christopher Robert Brevard;
- 16 (25) James L. Bridges;
- 17 (26) David Dee Brown Jr.;
- 18 (27) Charles Edward Brown;
- 19 (28) William F. Brown;
- 20 (29) Gary Edwin Bullock;
- 21 (30) Jaime L. Campbell;
- 22 (31) William Steven Childers;
- 23 (32) Johnathan Bryan Chism;
- 24 (33) Donald George Chmiel;
- 25 (34) Brad A. Clemmons;
- 26 (35) Adare William Cleveland;
- 27 (36) Ryan D. Collins;
- 28 (37) Clinton Arthur Cook;
- 29 (38) Jason Jarrard Corbett;
- 30 (39) Daniel Franklin Cox;
- 31 (40) Shawn R. Creighton;

- 1 (41) Eric B. Das;
- 2 (42) George W. Dauma Jr.;
- 3 (43) Carletta S. Davis;
- 4 (44) David J. Davis;
- 5 (45) Micheal W. Davis;
- 6 (46) Wilbert Davis;
- 7 (47) Dustin R. Donica;
- 8 (48) David Q. Douthit;
- 9 (49) William Bradley Duncan;
- 10 (50) Scott Douglas Dykman;
- 11 (51) William Albert Eaton;
- 12 (52) Michael Ignatius Edwards;
- 13 (53) David Henry Elisovsky;
- 14 (54) Robert Thomas Elliott III;
- 15 (55) Shawn Patrick Falter;
- 16 (56) Sean Patrick Fennerty;
- 17 (57) David Lynn Ferry;
- 18 (58) Sean P. Fisher;
- 19 (59) Nick Ulysses Fleener;
- 20 (60) Victor M. Fontanilla;
- 21 (61) Phillip Cody Ford;
- 22 (62) Kraig D. Foyteck;
- 23 (63) Lucas Frantz;
- 24 (64) Grant B. Fraser;
- 25 (65) Jacob Noal Fritz;
- 26 (66) Charles F. Gamble Jr.;
- 27 (67) Brennan Chriss Gibson;
- 28 (68) Micah S. Gifford;
- 29 (69) Dale Anthony Griffin;
- 30 (70) Howard Wayne Gulliksen;
- 31 (71) Daniel Lee Harmon;

- 1 (72) Dustin J. Harris;
- 2 (73) Raymond L. Henry;
- 3 (74) Irving Hernandez Jr.;
- 4 (75) Adam Herold;
- 5 (76) Patrick W. Herried;
- 6 (77) Kenneth Hess;
- 7 (78) William Earl Hibpshman;
- 8 (79) Michael Thomas Hoke;
- 9 (80) Jaron D. Holliday;
- 10 (81) Jerry Verne Horn;
- 11 (82) Michael R. Hullender;
- 12 (83) Kurt Int-Hout;
- 13 (84) Sam Ivey;
- 14 (85) Steven R. Jewell;
- 15 (86) Christopher C. Johnson;
- 16 (87) Jeremiah Jewel Johnson;
- 17 (88) Wayne Elmer Jones;
- 18 (89) Alexander Jordon;
- 19 (90) Adam P. Kennedy;
- 20 (91) Gilbert Ketzler Jr.;
- 21 (92) George Gregory Kilbuck;
- 22 (93) Jeremiah C. Kinchen;
- 23 (94) Donald Harry Kito;
- 24 (95) Howard Mark Koslosky;
- 25 (96) Russell A. Kurtz;
- 26 (97) Kermit Harold La Belle Jr.;
- 27 (98) Jason K. LaFleur;
- 28 (99) Mickey Daniel Lang;
- 29 (100) Jason Lantieri;
- 30 (101) David Alen Lape;
- 31 (102) Michael H. Lasky;

- 1 (103) Aaron Latimer;
- 2 (104) Robert Edward Lee;
- 3 (105) Henry W. Linck;
- 4 (106) James T. Lindsey;
- 5 (107) Norman Lewis Lingley;
- 6 (108) Joseph I. Love-Fowler;
- 7 (109) Jeremy M. Loveless;
- 8 (110) Bryan C. Luckey;
- 9 (111) Bradley W. Marshall;
- 10 (112) Thomas M. Martin;
- 11 (113) Brian McElroy;
- 12 (114) Jackie L. McFarlane Jr.;
- 13 (115) Patrick M. McInerney;
- 14 (116) Jacob Gerald McMillan;
- 15 (117) Phillip David McNeill;
- 16 (118) Benjamin E. Mejia;
- 17 (119) Jacob Eugene Melson;
- 18 (120) Kenneth Bruce Millhouse;
- 19 (121) Johnathon Miles Millican;
- 20 (122) Robert J. Montgomery;
- 21 (123) Trista L. Moretti;
- 22 (124) Christopher R. Morningstar;
- 23 (125) Shawn Matthew Murphy;
- 24 (126) Jason L. Norton;
- 25 (127) Toby Richard Olsen;
- 26 (128) Warren Paulsen;
- 27 (129) Joshua M. Pearce;
- 28 (130) Coty J. Phelps;
- 29 (131) William Franci Piaskowski;
- 30 (132) Larry Joe Plett;
- 31 (133) David Shelton Prentice;

- 1 (134) Cody A. Putman;
- 2 (135) Lloyd Steven Rainey;
- 3 (136) Daniel F. Reyes;
- 4 (137) Stanley B. Reynolds;
- 5 (138) Andrew William Rice Jr.;
- 6 (139) Floyd Whitley Richardson;
- 7 (140) Norman Franklin Ridley;
- 8 (141) Michelle R. Ring;
- 9 (142) Timothy J. Roark;
- 10 (143) Donald Robert Robison;
- 11 (144) Jessy S. Rogers;
- 12 (145) Jonathan Rojas;
- 13 (146) Donald Ray Sanders;
- 14 (147) Frederick M. Simeonoff;
- 15 (148) Nicholas R. Sowinski;
- 16 (149) Donald Walter Sperl;
- 17 (150) Clifford A. Spohn III;
- 18 (151) Lance Craig Springer II;
- 19 (152) Derek T. Stenroos;
- 20 (153) Joseph A. Strong;
- 21 (154) Stephen Sutherland;
- 22 (155) William Arthur Thompson;
- 23 (156) Douglas L. Tinsley;
- 24 (157) Chester William Troxel;
- 25 (158) Colby J. Umbrell;
- 26 (159) Joe Wayne Vanderpool;
- 27 (160) John S. Vaughan;
- 28 (161) Dustin S. Wakeman;
- 29 (162) Mark A. Wall;
- 30 (163) William Francis Walters;
- 31 (164) Shannon Weaver;

- 1 (165) Mason Douglas Whetstone;
- 2 (166) Arthur Joseph Whitney Jr.;
- 3 (167) Jamie Duggan Wilson;
- 4 (168) Daniel Eugene Woodcock;
- 5 (169) Shane William Woods;
- 6 (170) James R. Worster;
- 7 (171) David Reese Young Jr.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SCR 18
 (S) Publish Date: 2/20/08

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title SCR 18 Alaska Decoration of Honor RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Senator Wielechowski _____
 Requester (S) Rules Committee Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: SENATE RULES COMMITTEE Phone 465-3770
 Division: _____ Date/Time 2/19/08 4:30 p.m.
 Approved by: /s/ Senator Stevens, Chair Date 2/19/2008

SCOMM

149:14



Support Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care



*Today's soldiers...
are tomorrow's veterans*

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR

Veterans Health Care
BUDGET REFORM

The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform *Representing America's Veterans*

The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 861-2700
www.legion.org

AMVETS (American Veterans)
4647 Forbes Blvd.
Lanham, MD 20706
(301) 459-9600
www.amvets.org

Blinded Veterans Association
477 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 371-8880
www.bva.org

Disabled American Veterans
807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 554-3501
www.dav.org

Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 265-6280
www.jwv.org

**Military Order of the Purple Heart
of the U.S.A., Inc.**
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
(703) 642-5360
www.purpleheart.org

Paralyzed Veterans of America
801 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 872-1300
www.pva.org

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States**
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 543-2239
www.vfw.org

Veterans of America
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-4000
www.vva.org

This We Believe

Americans are once again deployed around the world, answering our nation's wartime call to arms. Like so many brave men and women who honorably served before them, these soldiers are fighting to preserve freedom, liberty, and security. Many have already made the ultimate sacrifice. Also, like those who fought before them, today's veterans deserve the respect of a grateful nation when they return home.

Unfortunately, without urgent changes in health care funding, our new veterans will soon discover their battles are not over. They will be forced to fight to preserve a health care system designed specifically to meet their unique needs. They will inherit an ongoing struggle to ensure that America fulfills its promise—to make the veterans health care system accessible to all veterans who need it.

The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform—the American Legion, AMVETS (American Veterans), Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Vietnam Veterans of America—is united in the belief that no veteran should be forced to fight for the care he or she has earned by virtue of his or her military service.

We believe it is time to guarantee health care funding for all veterans who need medical care. Health care rationing must end. It is time the promise is kept.

Many sick and disabled veterans are forced to wait six months or longer for an appointment in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility. The VA must have a predictable, reliable funding stream to meet the specialized health care needs of veterans.

Access to quality health care for veterans has been compromised in recent years by budget shortfalls, rising medical costs and dramatically increased demand for care. The current funding formula, in which the VA must compete with other agencies for scarce budget dollars, must be replaced. The only way the VA can fulfill its mission is for Congress to guarantee the direct funding it needs to operate.

The men and women who are currently deployed must be assured the VA health care system will be there for them when they need it—now and in the future. Congress should be mindful of George Washington's words: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Support Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care

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THE PARTNERSHIP FOR

Veterans Health Care
BUDGET REFORM

Today's VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States and has four critical health care missions:

- To provide health care to veterans
- To educate and train health care personnel
- To conduct medical research
- To serve as a backup to the Department of Defense and support communities in time of emergency

The VA operates 157 hospitals, with at least one in each of the 48 contiguous states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It operates more than 850 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 132 nursing homes, 42 residential rehabilitation treatment programs and 88 home-care programs. More than 193,000 employees support the VA health care system.

The VA provides a wide range of specialized services to meet the unique needs of veterans including spinal cord injury and dysfunction care and rehabilitation, blind rehabilitation, traumatic brain injury care, post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, amputee care and prosthetics programs, mental health and substance abuse programs, and long-term care programs. These services are incomparable resources that often cannot be duplicated in the private sector.

The VA also manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States. VA facilities are affiliated with 107 medical schools, 55 dental schools and more than 1,200 colleges and universities. These affiliations foster first-rate health care and state-of-the-art medical science. Each year, about 81,000 health professionals are trained in VA medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States today received some of their professional education in the VA health care system.

The VA also conducts research on some of the most critical health issues today. VA researchers have played key roles in

developing the cardiac pacemaker, the CT scan, the radio-immune assay technique and improvements in artificial limbs. The first liver transplant in the world was performed by a VA surgeon. VA clinical trials established the effectiveness of new treatments for tuberculosis, schizophrenia and high blood pressure. Because three out of four VA researchers are practicing physicians, their research often immediately benefits patients. Functional electrical stimulation, a technology using controlled electrical currents to activate paralyzed muscles, is being developed at VA clinical facilities and laboratories. Through this technology, paraplegic patients have been able to grasp objects, stand, and even walk short distances. VA contributions to medical knowledge benefit all Americans.

VA has proven it provides cost-effective, high quality, comprehensive health care services to our nation's veterans. In a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, May 29, 2003, "Effect of the Transformation of the Veterans Affairs Health Care System on the Quality of Care," researchers found dramatic improvements in the quality of care to veterans after the system-wide reengineering in the mid-1990s, and that care in VA was significantly better than that in the Medicare fee-for-service program.

Furthermore, in the Nugent study, "Value for Taxpayers' Dollars: What VA Care Would Cost at Medicare Prices," published in the *Medical Care Research and Review*, December 2004,

The Federal Budget

The entire federal budget is divided between discretionary and direct programs.

Discretionary programs are those programs which the Administration and Congress control through the budget and appropriations process. VA medical care is a discretionary program.

Direct programs are often referred to as entitlements, because all recipients of these funds meet specific criteria and are entitled to payments. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, VA compensation and pension, and congressional salaries are direct programs and receive guaranteed appropriations.

Currently, nearly 90 percent of all federal health care spending is already guaranteed (direct or mandatory) spending.

researchers concluded that the VA is able to provide a richer benefit package at lower cost than veterans would be able to obtain through the private sector under the Medicare fee-for-service program.



Even though the VA is unquestionably a success story, Congress typically provides an annual discretionary appropriation for veterans health care that falls far short of actual needs.

To ensure health care programs and

services are readily accessible for veterans, funding needed over the years has not kept pace with medical inflation, let alone the increased demand for services. The enrollment for VA medical care increased 134 percent between fiscal years 1996 and 2004; funding, however, only increased 34 percent during the same period when adjusted to 1996 dollars.

Who Uses the VA Health Care System?

In fiscal year (FY) 2004, the VA provided care to more than 5.1 million patients, including approximately 100,000 homeless veterans, more than 20,000 veterans with catastrophic spinal cord injuries and nearly 100,000 veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. These veterans fall into one of eight categories:

- **Priority Group 1:** Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more.
- **Priority Group 2:** Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30 or 40 percent.
- **Priority Group 3:** Veterans who are former POWs or were awarded a Purple Heart, veterans with disabilities rated 10 and 20 percent and veterans awarded special eligibility for disabilities incurred in treatment.
- **Priority Group 4:** Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits and veterans determined by the VA to be catastrophically disabled, although some may be responsible for co-payments.
- **Priority Group 5:** Veterans who are determined to be unable to pay the expenses of needed care.
- **Priority Group 6:** All other eligible veterans not required to make co-payments. This includes veterans of the Mexican border period or World War I; veterans seeking care solely for certain conditions associated with exposure to radiation, for any illness associated with combat service in a war after the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998, for any illness associated with participation in tests conducted by the Defense Department as part of Project 112/Shipboard Hazard and Defense; and veterans with zero percent service-connected disabilities who still receive compensation.
- **Priority Group 7:** Nonservice-connected veterans and noncompensable zero percent service-connected veterans with income above the VA's national means test threshold and below the VA's geographic means

test threshold based on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) index.

- **Priority Group 8:** Nonservice-connected veterans and zero percent noncompensable service-connected veterans with incomes above the HUD index who agree to pay co-payments. In January 2003, the VA closed enrollment to all new Priority Group 8 veterans seeking enrollment due to insufficient resources.



The VA is also obligated to provide two years of free health care to veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every active-duty servicemember, Reservist or National Guard member who serves in a theater

of combat operations is eligible for the full range of VA care for injuries or illnesses he or she believes is related to combat service. Veterans who enroll with VA under this authority will retain enrollment eligibility even after their two-year post discharge period ends under current enrollment policies.



Funding Reform Is Needed Now

Early in his first term, President Bush signed Executive Order 13214 creating the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. In its final report, the Task Force targeted health care funding reform as critical to the success of any VA-DoD collaboration of services. The Task Force also identified a significant mismatch between the demand for VA services and the availability of adequate funding which, if left unresolved, would delay veterans' access to care and threaten the quality of care provided.

In Recommendation 5.1, the Task Force noted:

The federal government should provide full funding to ensure that enrolled veterans in Priority Groups 1 through 7 are provided the current comprehensive benefit in accordance with VA's established access standards. Full funding should occur through modifications to the current budget and appropriations process, by using a mandatory funding mechanism, or by some other changes in the process that achieve the desired goal.

In January 2003, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs suspended the enrollment of Priority 8 veterans because of insufficient resources to accommodate all eligible veterans seeking care and treatment from the VA. These veterans, the Task Force stated, "do not know from year to year whether they will have access to VA care, and as an organization, the VA cannot effectively plan or budget, given this uncertainty." Declaring the situation regarding Priority 8 veterans unacceptable, the Task Force



recommended that the President and the Congress should work together to resolve the status of this group.

Although the Secretary of Veterans Affairs suspended the enrollment of Priority 8 veterans initially as a "temporary" measure, VA planning documents do not assume that Priority 8 veterans will ever be permitted to enroll in the system. And as resources continue to precipitously decline and more veterans are seeking health care services, veterans from other priority groups may also be barred from the system.



It is clear the current method of funding VA medical care is flawed. We strongly urge the Administration and Congress to act on the recommendations of the Task Force, and to reform the method for funding veterans health care to ensure a predictable and reliable funding stream. Providing health care to our nation's sick and disabled veterans is part of the cost of national defense and should be a top priority for our government.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does direct funding create a new entitlement?

- No. Direct funding neither creates an individual health care entitlement nor changes the VA's current mission, eligibility requirements, or medical benefits package.
- Direct funding only changes the way funds are provided for VA health care.

Will direct funding result in runaway costs?

- No. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will retain the right to make an annual enrollment decision based on available resources.
- Although eligibility reform opened the VA health care system to all veterans, the vast majority of veterans choose other health care options.
- Direct funding will ensure that the VA receives a reliable, predictable, and consistent funding stream to provide timely, high-quality health care.

Will Congress lose oversight if direct funding of the VA health care system is instituted?

- No. As with other direct funded federal programs, Congress would retain oversight of VA programs and health care services.
- The VA will still be accountable to Congress for how its funds are spent and how well its health care programs are managed.
- Currently, almost 90 percent of federal health care spending is direct rather than discretionary. Only funding for active duty military, Native Americans, and veterans health care are left to the discretion of Congress.



Care for veterans who have served our nation with honor—and who are by law eligible to receive medical care from the VA—must be considered part of the continuing cost of the national defense. Congress must institute a rational, reliable means of funding the medical operations of the VA. What is needed is a mechanism that will enable every VA facility to provide quality care to sick and disabled veterans in a timely, cost-effective manner.

Providing for the health care needs of veterans should not be pitted against the needs of military families, or costs of a strong national defense. Caring for veterans is an American responsibility.

Open discussion on budget reform by our elected officials is necessary to determine a viable long-term solution to the VA's funding crisis. The time to act is now.



Supporting Documents

- *FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report* – Office of the Budget, Department of Veterans Affairs. (November 2004)
- *Final Report 2003* – The President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. (May 2003)
- *A System Worth Saving* – The American Legion. (September 2003)
- *The Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2006* – AMVETS, DAV, PVA, and VFW. (February 2005)
- *White Paper: The Position of Vietnam Veterans of America on Health Care Funding for All Veterans* – Vietnam Veterans of America. (July 2003)
- *White Paper: America's Health Care Crisis: Where Does Veteran's Health Care Stand?* – Disabled American Veterans. (2005)

Supporting Documents

- FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report - Office of the Budget, Department of Veterans Affairs (November 2004)
- Total Report 2003 - The President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans (May 2003)
- A Sicker, Wealthier Society - The American Legion (September 2003)
- The Information Highway for Year 2000 - AHA/ASA/BAV PVA and VVA (February 2003)
- White Paper: The Position of Vietnam Veterans of America in Health Care Funding for All Veterans - Veterans of America (July 2003)
- White Paper: America's Health Care Crisis: Why Do Veterans' Health Care Needs - Disabled American Veterans (2003)

Veterans Health Care

BUDGET REFORM



The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 861-2700
www.legion.org



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Vietnam Veterans of America
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-4000
www.vva.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: February 13, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS: HES

Date of Committee Action: February 26, 2008

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: SJR 11

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

SUPPORTING U.S. VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Supporting federal funding for veterans' health care and urging the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

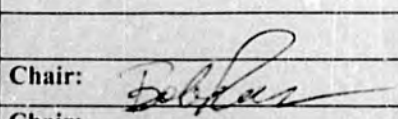
Recommends it be replaced with ☐ **HCS** **or** ☐ **CS** **for** _____ **(** _____ **)**
For Senate Bills with new title: ☐ **Technical Title** ☐ **New Title: HCR** ☐ **Same Title** ☐ **New Title**

- [] 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
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing <u>with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Karaman	X			
Edw. L. Doot	Lodoot	X			
Anna J. Fairclough	Fairclough	X			
Walter J. Buch	Buch	X			
R. L. Buch	Buch	X			
Chair: 	ROSES	X			
Chair:					



Vietnam Veterans of America

8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400 • Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Telephone (301) 585-4000
Main Fax (301) 585-0519 • Advocacy (301) 585-3180 • Communications (301) 585-5245 • Finance (301) 585-5542
World Wide Web: <http://www.vva.org>

A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

A revamped method of funding veterans' health care is the highest legislative priority of VVA. What is needed is a new mechanism to assure, or guarantee, funding of the VA's health care operations, one that will ensure VA planners of a predictable, reliable, sufficient, sustainable – and timely – funding stream. Such an innovation will not diminish congressional oversight, nor will it lead to spiraling costs. (What leads to higher expenditures is twofold: medical inflation and an influx of eligible veterans who choose to use the VA system for their health-care needs.)

More than 7 million of our nation's 23 million veterans are on the VA rolls. Some receive disability compensation for wounds or conditions incurred or exacerbated during or as a result of their military service. More than 5 million use the VA health care system as their provider of choice – or of last resort. Veterans whose income places them below the poverty line have few options; however, they are lucky to be served by a system that provides, for the most part, good to excellent care. Many others, who are so-called higher income veterans, have no medical insurance but are denied access to VA healthcare by the current administration as a matter of policy and by the fact that Congress has not allocated enough resources to take care of all who have earned the right to health care – who were promised health care as a condition of their service. Still other veterans receive care privately but often cannot afford the prescription medications they need; for them, the VA prescription drug service is a godsend. And there are those who choose to avail themselves of the VA health care system because of the quality of care it provides, and they were fortunate enough to get into the system before the administration closed the door to these "Priority 8" veterans – more than half a million of them, it has been estimated, since 2003.

It is incumbent upon all of us to work together to continue to improve what is the largest integrated health care system in the country. We must ensure that the VA has the funding it needs to meet its mandate, to fulfill the promise of President Abraham Lincoln "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." To this end, we must work together to fashion a formula to fund the VA's health care operations – because the current discretionary method of funding is, in effect, arbitrary.

VVA believes, in concert with The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, that a fair funding formula can be arrived at, one that won't bust the budget, one that recognizes our nation's obligations to veterans and is indexed to medical inflation and the per capita use of the VA health care system.

A revamped funding mechanism for veterans' health care is one of a trio of overarching issues that we believe Congress must address. We know that many of your colleagues are less than enthusiastic about pouring dollars into a system that often cannot account for how this money is spent. There have been repeated instances of hundreds of millions of dollars dedicated to specific purposes, e.g., mental health or hepatitis C, that have been swallowed by VISN budgets with nary a trace, and the VA cannot or will not say what has happened to this taxpayer money.

VVA has long maintained that measures to **ensure accountability** must be built into any method of funding the VA health care system. An infusion of funding alone is a recipe for failure, and we do not endorse simply throwing dollars at a problem. Controls are needed to convince managers that it is in their best interest to do the job right the first time. Yes, give bonuses to key managers and others whose work shines; but also employ real sanctions when the job is not done right.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

Resources Committee

Judiciary Committee

Transportation Committee



State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 440
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0102
Fax: (907) 269-6122

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

February 13, 2008

Representative Bob Roses, Chair
House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room 416, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I respectfully request a hearing on SJR 11, a resolution supporting federal funding for veterans' health care and urging the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

This simple resolution expresses gratitude for and recognizes the sacrifices made by veterans who suffer from medical and mental problems resulting from injuries sustained while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It urges the United States Congress to increase funding for veteran's health care in light of the funding inadequacies that exist today.

SJR 11 recently passed the Senate unanimously. It has the support of the Alaska chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, the Alaska Veterans Foundation, the Anchorage chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Alaska chapter of Veterans of Modern Warfare, and the Alaska Veterans Business Alliance.

Thank you for your speedy consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Bill Wielechowski

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Senate Resources Committee

•
Senate Judiciary Committee

•
Senate Transportation Committee



Session:
State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Interim:
716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

SJR 11 – Supporting Adequate Funding for Veteran's Health Care Sponsor Statement

We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. One of the things we can, and must, do for our veterans is to honor the promises we have made to them. This starts with providing those veterans with access to the quality health care they deserve.

The press has documented the neglect of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require it.

As the state with the largest per capita number of veterans, it is essential that we send a clear signal of our commitment to care for our military personnel both on active duty and as veterans. While our legislature tries to do all we can for our vets and returning soldiers, our federal government has the primary responsibility of meeting the needs of our veterans. We need to call on Congress, as a state, to adequately fund critical veteran services.

We respectfully request the Alaska State Legislature to support this resolution to provide adequate federal funding for veterans' health care. Thank you.