

SCOMM

97:6

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM / SYSTEM DIRECTOR

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25535
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5535
PHONE: (907) 465-3959
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February 22, 1996

No: L0367-96

The Honorable Gary L. Davis
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 420
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Davis:

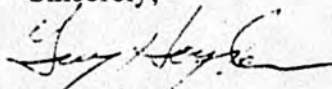
Thank you for your recent letter regarding the possibility of space available travel for members of the Alaska National Guard. I do believe that the connection between the Air Force space available program and the National Guard is easier understood than one with the Marine Highway System might be.

In recent years escalating operational costs have caused us to revisit free passage programs and to eliminate them where possible. On some runs 30% of the passengers were on pass and the associated costs for ticket administration, loading and off-loading, general housekeeping and emergency medical response were eating into our ability to provide all passengers with an acceptable level of service. We have made a relatively smooth transition to the current policy of offering seniors and handicapped persons passage at 50% of the posted tariff dependant on time of year and vessel. Vehicles associated with these itineraries have been charged at the normal rate.

It is my understanding that there are less than a hundred active National Guardsmen in Southeast and that training seldom takes place in the summer months. With that in mind I would propose that the AMHS provide reserved space transportation (walk on and vehicle passage) at 50% of the posted tariff for Alaska National Guard members traveling to and from training.

Thank you for suggesting the accommodation and for your continuing support.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hayden
System Director

NATLGARD.LET

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Transportation Committee

February 9, 1996

Gary Haden, System Director
Alaska Marine Highway
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Gary,

I received the attached letter from the Alaska National Guard requesting travel on a space available basis for guardsman traveling to training in the Southeast on the Alaska Marine Highway. The idea is one worth exploring.

Currently the Air Force offers space available seating to soldiers, and airmen, including the National Guard. I am wondering if a similar program could be set up with the State Ferry System on a space available basis. Would it be possible to offer this privilege to guardsman and their vehicles?

Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of any assistance in this matter, please don't hesitate to call.

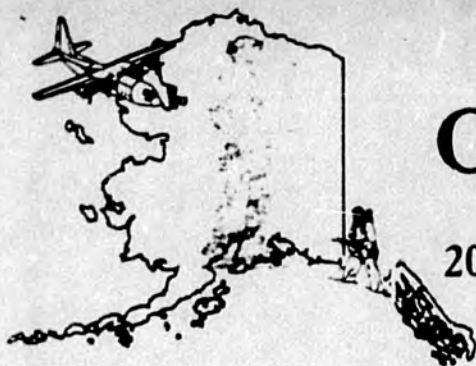
Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Davis".

Gary L. Davis, Representative

cc: Co-Chairs, Military and Veteran's Affairs
Representative Ivan
Representative Kott

jkt



ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

200 West 34th Avenue, Suite 727 Anchorage, Alaska 99503

(907) 333-3259

February 1, 1996

Honorable Gary Lee Davis
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SUBJECT: National Guard Space-Available Travel on Alaska Ferry
System

Dear Gary Davis,

On behalf of the Alaska National Guard Officer's Association, I am requesting your support in sponsoring a bill authorizing members of the Alaska National Guard to travel to their training location on the Alaska Ferry System, at no cost, on a space available basis. The Ferry services eighteen (18) communities that do not have National Guard units. Providing space-available travel would facilitate recruitment in these communities and expand the National Guard presence in the state.

Travel on a space-available basis can be accomplished with negligible impact on the cost of operating the State Ferry System. The Air Force has provided space available to all soldiers and airmen including the National Guard for many years. A similar program could be easily applied to the ferry system. Space-available privilege should extend to the individual and his or her privately owned, noncommercial vehicle.

Thank you for your continued support of the Alaska National Guard. If you can help us on this issue, our legislative affairs committee stands ready to assist with draft proposals or additional information you may require. Our local representative in Juneau is Captain Duff Mitchell who can be contacted at 789-8393 (page) or 790-2722 (home).

Sincerely,

Frank L. Boguslawski
Frank L. Boguslawski
CW3 (Ret), ANGOA
President

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 496

Revision Date: 3/1/96 Dept. Affected: DOT&PF
Title: "An Act relating to transportation of members of BRU: Marine Operations
the Alaska National Guard by the Alaska Marine Highway System." Component: Southeast Vessel Operations
Sponsor: House Special Committee on Southwest Vessel Operations
Requester: Military & Veterans' Affairs, Transportation COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 630 & 631

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	(3.0)	(3.3)	(3.6)	(4.0)	(4.4)	(4.8)
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
1076 AMHS Fund	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.4
TOTAL	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.4

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

In recent years escalating operational costs have caused us to revisit free passage programs and to eliminate them where possible. On some runs, 30% of the passengers were on free passes. The associated costs for ticket administration, loading and off-loading of vehicles, general housekeeping, and emergency medical response impacts our ability to provide all passengers with an acceptable level of service.

Currently, seniors, handicapped, passengers experiencing disabilities, and youth groups pay at 50% of the posted tariff for their passage. Taken individually, the cost to the state of providing free passage may seem insignificant. Collectively, however, it has an eroding effect on the revenues AMHS requires to maintain a reasonable operating schedule.

Prepared by: Gary L. Hayden, Director
Division: Alaska Marine Highway System
Approved by: [Signature]
Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Phone: 465-3959
Date: 3/1/96
Date: 3/1/96

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HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 496 SPONSOR STATEMENT

Many potential recruits to the Alaska National Guard reside in isolated communities that are on the Alaska Marine Highway System. These individuals are not able to join the Guard without paying their own fare to and from drilling sites. As a result, Guard recruitment in these communities is difficult.

HB 496 would permit Guard members to travel to and from their drills without charge on the Alaska Marine Highway System, but only on a space available basis. These individuals perform great service to Alaska, for which they receive little compensation. It is not reasonable for the state to expect them to pay the prohibitively high costs of transportation in and out of their communities for what little they are paid. As a consequence, very few such individuals can afford to serve. The state, through the passage of this bill, would ameliorate this problem without incurring any additional expenses. Accordingly, your support is urged.

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 496 SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Section 1 of HB 496 requires the Department of Transportation to provide, free of charge, transportation on the Alaska Marine Highway to members of the Alaska National Guard who are traveling to or from official training activities. This requirement is contingent on space being available. The privilege extends to the Guard member and one personal vehicle.