



25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
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Fact Sheet for : Senate Bill 204
Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault

Contact: Ernest Prax, 465-4797

Short Title: Municipal Tax Exemption: Combat Deaths

Summary:

- Provides a partial or whole municipal property tax exemption to the widow or widower of a member of the United States' armed forces who is killed in the line of duty.
- Requires that the deceased served in active duty capacity, was eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger pay, and died within 90 days if having sustained combat related injuries.
- Requires that the widow or widower be a permanent Alaska resident.
- Allows a municipality the discretion to shape and opt-in to the property tax exemption.

Benefits:

- Provides financial relief to families of members of the United States' armed forces killed during combat operations.
- Honors the sacrifices made by members of the armed services and their families while protecting the United States from foreign aggression.

Background:

- Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom began on October 7, 2001 and March 20, 2003. Heeding their nation's call, men and women of the United States' armed forces left behind friends and family to serve our country. Sadly, not all returned home. In Alaska alone, over eighty soldiers have died in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of war. Many of these fallen soldiers' families have chosen to make Alaska their home. This bill will help to ease their financial and emotion burdens as well as to offer a token of appreciation by the citizens of Alaska.