

Veterans May Qualify For Health Benefits

WASHINGTON — Alaska veterans may qualify for health care benefits within the state similar to those available outside Alaska if Congress approves a proposal backed by Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett.

In a statement presented in his behalf to the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Bartlett urged enactment of legislation to make nursing home care available to veterans

in Alaska and Hawaii.

He also supported legislation to permit the use of private hospitals by veterans in the two newest states.

At present, Bartlett told the subcommittee, veterans may be referred to public or private nursing homes only from hospitals administered directly by the Veterans Administration.

There are no VA hospitals in Alaska, although veterans may receive medical care at military and Public Health Service hospitals.

In asking the subcommittee to approve his bill to allow veterans to receive benefits when under care in private institutions, Bartlett said that private care was permitted prior to statehood.

However, he said, the advent of statehood inadvertently deprived Alaska veterans of this type of treatment.