



**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL, CHAIRMAN**

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Sponsor Statement

HB 137

“An Act relating to an interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children; amending Rules 4 and 24, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date.”

The purpose of House Bill 137 is to eliminate some of the barriers that face children of military personnel as they transition from one school system to another. The average student will move from six to nine times from kindergarten to 12th grade.

While the armed services has done much to ease the transition for children of military personnel, there is much that can be done at the state and local levels to ensure that these children are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children.

Alaska enjoys a close relationship with our service men and women and their families and recognizes the sacrifice and stress they face with frequent moves and deployment. There are 12,106 active duty children between the ages of five and 18 plus the children of active members of the guard and reserve that will benefit from this compact.

Eleven states in 2008 adopted this compact and presently 22 states have pending legislation to join the compact. Passing this legislation will help remove some of that stress by providing the children timely enrollment as the children move from one school district to another.