



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

House Bill 262 Sponsor Statement

"Relating to temporary courtesy licenses for certain nonresident professionals; and relating to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development"

In 2011, HB 28 was passed to provide expedited temporary courtesy licenses to eligible individuals transferred to Alaska with their active duty service member spouse, so they can practice their trade without experiencing extensive wait times for licensure approval. For a military spouse, expedited temporary courtesy licenses are the fastest method of obtaining licensure and getting back to their profession.

Similar legislation was also passed by several other states. However, states such as Washington and Connecticut, also included a reporting mechanism so that the Legislature and Joint Armed Services Committee equivalent in that state could track the executive branch's progress of implementation and occupational board communication. HB 28 did not include a reporting requirement when it was passed.

In fall 2017, legislators voiced concern that full implementation of HB 28 (2011) was not yet completed, and that not all occupational boards were aware of the now 7-year-old statute. While questions remain, the bill simply seeks to strengthen the ability of military spouses to obtain these occupational licenses in an efficient and expedited manner as prescribed by law.

HB 262 seeks to amend AS 08.01.063 to include that the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development prepare an annual report of courtesy licenses issued the previous fiscal year. This simple reporting mechanism will help facilitate communication between occupational boards, the department and the legislators. It will also aid in making occupational board staff and legislators more aware of what opportunities are available for helping military spouses get back into the workforce.

The passage of HB 262 would improve communication between the boards, the department and the legislator and by improving efficiency and awareness about what opportunities are available, will help welcome military families to Alaska and encourage their integration into our local economy. I respectfully urge your support of HB 262, a corrective bill that is in the interest of improving communication, accountability and helping with the transition of Alaska's military families.

###