

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Sponsor Statement

### HB 347– Leave for Military Spouses

*"An Act allowing certain teachers, public employees, and private sector employees to take leave without pay when their spouses are on leave from deployment in a combat zone."*

House Bill 347 will require employers to grant leave without pay to spouses of military personnel who are deployed during a period of military conflict in a geographic area that is designated a combat zone by the President of the United States, and are on leave from military deployment.

This law will apply to school districts, state and local governments, and private sector employers with 20 or more employees. It will allow the employees to take up to ten days of unpaid leave to spend time with their spouses before they return to combat.

Current federal law allows some military spouses to take up to 12 weeks of job protected leave in similar situations, but it is limited to family members of the National Guard and Reserves. Spouses of service members in the Regular Armed Forces do not qualify for leave under the federal law.

Under this legislation, Alaska would join California, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Oregon and Washington in passing similar laws to protect the jobs of military spouses.