ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

State Capitol, Rm. 419
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Interim

716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120
Fax: (907) 269-0122

State Affairs Committee

Judiciary Committee

In-State Energy Committee

Joint Armed Services
Committee

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 4: Military Training Credit

Senate Bill 4 will help eliminate the red tape veterans face when they leave the service and seek employment or education in a field where they have been working for years. This bill directs state boards to accept relevant military education, training, and service as equivalent to some or all of the qualifications required while applying for a license or certificate. In addition, it authorizes the issuance of a temporary license or certificate for active duty service members who had an equivalent license or certificate issued in another state.

The United States Department of Defense has designated this effort as a top priority across the nation. According to their data, as of September 2012, 773,000 veterans were unemployed and the jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans was 9.9%, with young male veterans experiencing an unemployment rate of 18.1%. Data also indicates that last year, 1,231 military members who separated or retired call Alaska home. This legislation will help those veterans find employment quicker to support their families.

When recruiting, the military highlights its educational advantages, promising young men and women that service will give them an advantage toward a college degree and a better career. However, many veterans who attend college after tours of duty are denied credit for military courses and specialized skills, forcing them to waste time taking classes on subjects they have already mastered.

Senate Bill 4 also directs the University of Alaska and Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to implement policies and procedures to accept relevant military experience as credit toward a degree or technical program.