

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

### Sponsor Statement

#### House Bill 84

***"An Act relating to applying military education, training, and service credit to occupational licensing and certain postsecondary education and employment training requirements; providing for a temporary occupational license for qualified military service members; and providing for an effective date."***

According to the Department of Defense, the September 2012, jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans was 9.9% with young male Veterans (ages 18 to 24) experiencing an unemployment rate of 18.1%. Last year, Alaska had over 1200 service members separate from the military from our posts and bases. These are 1200 potential workers who could contribute to our state's economy. It is our responsibility to assist their transition into our work force swiftly and appropriately.

Our nation's military is one of the most highly trained in the world. These men and women who undertake this challenge face unique challenges and sacrifice many things that the general population does not. We owe it to our men and women to ensure that their distinctive set of skills do not go to waste once they separate from the military. These highly trained individuals deserve to remain productive members of society and to be able to provide for their families.

HB 84 requires the Division of Professional Licensing, University of Alaska and vocational educational facilities to examine the credentials of related military experience. Relevant military experience would be credited for licensing requirements and educational credit would be granted for appropriate training.

In the last 10 years our military has seen record numbers of deployments. HB 84 is one way we can show our thanks and allow our service members the opportunity to create positive and productive futures.

I would appreciate your support for House Bill 84.