

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Resources Committee

State Affairs Committee

Joint Armed Services Committee

Judiciary Committee

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SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 2— Employment Preference: Veteran & Spouses

Our country is emerging from a decade of war and reducing the total number of combat forces. In an already challenging economic climate, these men and women who have honorably served must now make their case that the skills acquired in the military translate into civilian employment.

Senate Bill 2 permits private sector employers to extend a hiring preference to veterans, and their spouse or domestic partner, without violating Alaska Human Rights Law. It is a Department of Defense priority and a policy the State of Alaska already permits in public sector hiring.

This bill expands opportunities for veterans and aims to help bring down the unacceptably high unemployment rate among them. It also gives private employers greater flexibility in choosing to hire veterans.

As the number of veterans in the American workforce has increased dramatically, supporting these brave men and women is of the utmost importance. I hope that you will join me in helping to make the transition back into civilian life a smooth one for our military families.