



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

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Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, Vice-Chair
Rep. Justin Parish
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz

Rep. Dan Saddler
Rep. Lora Reinbold
Rep. George Rauscher

House Bill 152

“An Act relating to the organized militia and relating to the authority of the adjutant general.”

House Bill 152 would continue to modernize the military and veteran statutory authorities to ensure that the Alaska National Guard operates as a modern, efficient military force able to quickly respond to Alaska's citizens. This proposal updates the 1955 Alaska Military Code by providing statutory authorities that will bring Alaska's organized militia into the 21st Century and on par with other state National Guards.

House Bill 152 would clarify the Adjutant General has control and command of the organized militia. Currently, the Alaska Military Code grants the Adjutant General the authority to control the organized militia but does not lay responsibility of command at this position. Military command authority carries two functions; the legal authority over individuals which will provide the Adjutant General the ability to hire employees and carry out disciplinary actions; and the legal responsibility to carry out missions.

This proposal will also clarify that the Adjutant General is authorized to adopt regulations that are consistent with federal active duty regulations, state law, and the Governor's intent.

House Bill 152 would authorize the Adjutant General to order the organized militia into State Active Duty under emergency situations. The current Alaska Military Code only authorizes the Governor to call out the organized militia to active state service. As certain crises materialize, time and circumstances may be of the essence to save lives and property of Alaskans. If the Governor is unavailable or unreachable, this bill would allow the Adjutant General to order the organized militia into active state service. The Adjutant General would be required to continue efforts to contact the Governor and reassess the situation at least 72 hours after the order was given.

House Bill 152 would also extend the tuition assistance program to include the Alaska State Defense Force. The tuition assistance program allows the Adjutant General to authorize payment for the cost of tuition and fees for educational, vocational, and technical training when funds are available. Currently, the tuition assistance program includes the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska Naval Militia. This proposal would add the Alaska State Defense Force, which will be another tool to help with recruitment and retention in the Alaska State Defense Force.

House Bill 152 is an important step to ensure our organized militia has the authority to operate efficiently and protect Alaskans.