

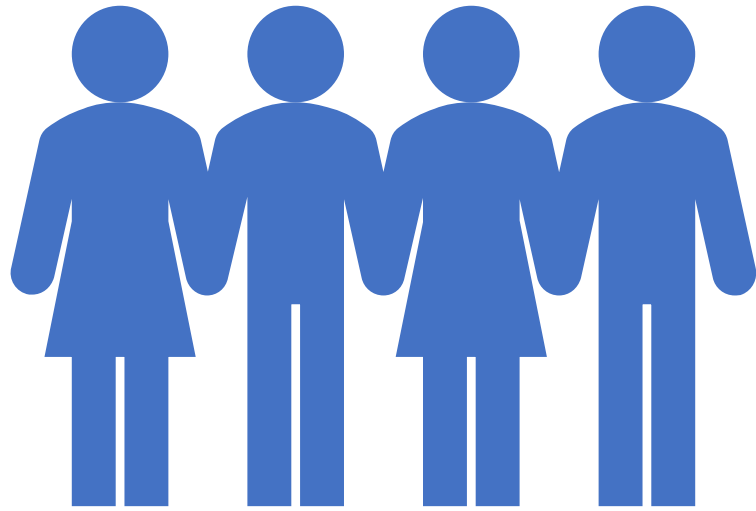
House Bill 113

Office of Representative Sharon Jackson

What

HB114 Will extend current hiring preferences to military spouses and dependents of Blue Star and Gold Star spouses and dependents.





Why?

Military spouses are among the highest unemployed group in the United States, despite their education or experience.

There are about 68,000 Active Military Members and 151,881 Military Dependents in Alaska.

Top 3 Challenges

- Unemployment – The number of unemployed military spouses averages at more than 40%. That's more than twice the amount compared to the national unemployment rate.
- Underemployment – Low pay. Research shows that military spouses with a college degree earn 40% less than their counterparts. A study from Syracuse University found that 90% of female spouses of active-duty members reported they were underemployed
- Frequent moves – Spouses and dependents move constantly, resulting in employment gaps, lack of networking, not able to find a job with flexibility or simply not living in an optimal location.

Blue Star and Gold Star Families

Blue Star Families

Spouses and dependents of an active-duty service members or veterans.

Gold Star Families

Spouses and dependents of a deceased member who died while in active duty.

The last Sunday in September—is designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day" by an annual presidential proclamation.

Alaska's Current Law and HB 113

Current Law

Veterans with disabilities:

10 points or 10% hiring preferences

Service members transitioning:

5 points or 5% hiring preferences

HB 113

Will extend these benefits to spouses and dependents

24 States provide Veterans' Preferences to Spouses or Surviving Spouses

Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida	Idaho
Illinois	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine	Minnesota
Nevada	New Jersey	North Dakota	Oklahoma	Pennsylvania
South Dakota	Texas	Utah		

Questions?