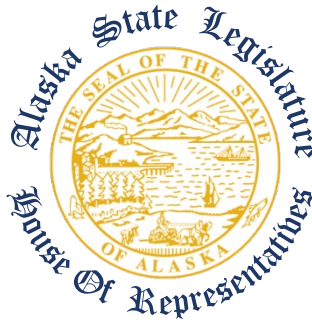


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## **House Bill 17**

### **Sponsor Statement**

*"An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service."*

House Bill 17 allows Veterans who are totally and permanently disabled to access their accrued PERS retirement benefits without penalty. HB 17 also allows military service, which has been purchased in accordance with the PERS standards to count towards the credited service requirements for normal retirement.

Veterans who are totally and permanently disabled struggle to work and keep gainful employment due to their service-connected disabilities. As such, this class of veterans often struggles with income stability. If HB 17 becomes law, it will provide disabled veterans with access to their PERS retirement benefits at a time when they need it most.

HB 17 does not provide any additional benefits beyond those rightfully earned by veterans through their dedicated public service.

By passing HB 17, the Legislature will help provide stability to our disabled veterans when they need it most.

If you have additional questions, please contact Craig Valdez in my office at 907-465-4859.