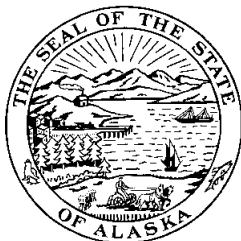


# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:  
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:  
State Capitol Rm 500  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-465-3004

## Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

[Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov)

April 27, 2026

### Sectional Analysis for HB 299 (34-LS1386\A)

#### Section 1

Adds a new section to AS 12.25 (Arrest & Citations), 12.55.145 that directs an arresting officer to determine if an individual in custody has 'Veteran Status' as defined in AS 47.55.900 (**Title 47 is Welfare, Social Services, & Institutions, specifically Alaska Veterans Homes**).

“veteran” means a person who has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States, including the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska Territorial Guard; the discharge from the armed forces must be other than dishonorable.”

**Although this definition is palatable for eligibility, the sponsor is currently working with interested parties to fine tune a definition that works for this specific program.**

#### Section 2

Adds a new subsection to AS 12.30.006 (Bail, Release Procedures) which states that a judicial officer upon first appearance, shall inform a defendant identified as a veteran of the veteran sentencing program.

#### Section 3

Amends AS 12.55.015(a) (Authorized sentences; forfeiture) to allow the court, when sentencing a defendant convicted of an offence, to set aside a conviction or reduce a misdemeanor charge under the Veteran Sentencing Program.

#### Section 4

Adds a new section to AS 12.55 (Sentencing & Probation) which establishes the Veteran Sentencing Program under AS 12.55.057

- (a) Authorizes the court to proceed with sentencing a qualified offender under the veterans sentencing program.**
- (b) Establishes that a veteran is eligible for the veterans sentencing program if one or more mental or physical symptoms derived from military service have contributed to the offense.**
- (c) Allows the court to determine an offender ineligible for the veterans sentencing program if they present a threat to public safety.**
- (d) Establishes options for sentencing under the veterans sentencing program.**
- (e) Requires the court to establish the conditions for a veteran's participation in the program and conduct a final hearing to determine successful completion.**
- (f) Authorizes the court, upon successful completion of the program, to set aside, reduce, or expunge the conviction.**
- (g) Establishes that trauma unrelated to military service cannot be used to deny the existence of a condition resulting from military service.**
- (h) Defines terms utilized in the veterans sentencing program.**

## **Section 5**

Adds a new paragraph to AS 12.55.155(d) (Factors in aggravation & mitigation) to allow a court to factor in an individual's veteran status and record as a mitigator in criminal sentencing.

**Establishes a veteran's overseas deployment, exposure to danger, a service-related disability, or a service-related merit as a mitigating factor in sentencing.**

## **Section 6**

Amends AS 44.19.645(a) (Powers & duties of the Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission) to include tracking the efficacy of the Veterans Sentencing Program and gathering evaluations from participants.

## **Section 7**

Adds an indirect court rule amendment to the Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, specifically Rule 35 (Reduction, Correction, or Suspension of Sentence) and Rule 43 (Dismissal and Deferred Prosecution) to account for the Veterans Sentencing Program.

## **Section 8**

Adds a conditional effect due to the indirect court rule amendment which would require a vote of two-thirds majority of each house.

## **Section 9**

Sets an effective date of July 1, 2027.