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Gunther
3/20/24

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 185(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the mayors and public members appointed to the Alaska Military Affairs Commission be geographically distributed to represent as many different communities across the state as possible.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 5A. Alaska Military Affairs Commission.

Sec. 44.19.851. Alaska Military Affairs Commission. The Alaska Military Affairs Commission is established in the Office of the Governor.

Sec. 44.19.854. Commission membership. The commission is composed of nine members, as follows:

(1) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair of the commission;

(2) the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the adjutant general's designee;

(3) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development or the commissioner's designee;

(4) three members who are mayors, or their designees, from municipalities with installations of the armed forces of the United States within the municipal boundaries, appointed by the governor; the governor shall appoint members under this paragraph so that

(A) the installations, collectively, represent different branches of the armed forces of the United States; and

(B) each member represents a different geographic region, to the extent possible;

(5) two public members with extensive military experience or expertise, each representing a different branch of the armed forces of the United States, appointed by the governor;

(6) one public member with statewide business or economic development experience, appointed by the governor.

Sec. 44.19.857. Terms. Members appointed under AS 44.19.854(4) - (6) serve staggered terms of three years until reappointed or replaced and may be reappointed.

Sec. 44.19.860. Meetings, quorum, and administrative support. (a) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet quarterly and at other times determined by the chair.

(b) Members of the commission serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

(c) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative support to the commission.

Sec. 44.19.863. Duties of the commission. The commission shall

(1) provide advice, counsel, and actionable recommendations on military issues, and economic and industrial development related to military issues, to the governor, state agencies, the legislature, communities, and the state's congressional delegation;

(2) provide recommendations to expand and grow the current presence of the armed forces in the state, including new bases, expanded missions, and increased training;

(3) plan for state infrastructure needs to support military objectives;

(4) recommend methods to improve private and public employment opportunities for the families of current and former members of the military who reside in the state;

(5) assist and advise communities and the state in the design and execution of programs that enhance communities' relationships with installations of the armed forces of the United States and defense-related businesses, including in the areas of public school education, in-state higher education and training, cultural and recreational community assets, and housing and energy affordability;

(6) advocate for the state in matters related to military expansion decision making by emphasizing the state's strategic location on the globe and existing infrastructure and work to build community support in the state for the armed forces of the United States;

(7) prepare and maintain a strategic plan to

(A) protect the state's existing military missions;

(B) position the state to be competitive for new and expanded military missions;

(C) promote the long-term viability and prosperity of the military and industries related to national defense in the state; and

(D) consider all current and anticipated base realignment and closure criteria affecting bases in the state;

(8) report to the Joint Armed Services Committee and any special committee of the legislature relating to military and veterans' affairs, if such committee exists at the time the report is due, issues on the commission's activities

over the previous calendar year; the commission shall provide the report in an electronic format and deliver the report by January 31 each year.

Sec. 44.19.866. Definition. In AS 44.19.851 - 44.19.866, "commission" means the Alaska Military Affairs Commission.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(15) Alaska Military Affairs Commission (AS 44.19.851) - June 30, 2030.

* **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

ALASKA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION; STAGGERED TERMS. (a) Notwithstanding AS 44.19.857, added by sec. 2 of this Act, and AS 39.05.055, the seats on the Alaska Military Affairs Commission established in AS 44.19.851, added by sec. 2 of this Act, shall be initially filled as follows:

- (1) the members appointed under AS 44.19.854(4) shall serve one-year terms;
- (2) the members appointed under AS 44.19.854(5) shall serve two-year terms;

and

- (3) the member appointed under AS 44.19.854(6) shall serve a three-year term.

(b) Members appointed under AS 44.19.854(1) - (3) begin membership on the Alaska Military Affairs Commission on the effective date of this Act.