



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Bill Wielechowski

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Senate Bill 154

Military Contract Preference

Sponsor Statement

SB 154 establishes a bidder preference of state contracts for veterans and servicemembers.

Alaska's population of veterans is 68,719 (2017, DoVA) as well as 21,407 (2019, Ak Labor Statistics) active-duty personnel, it is estimated that nearly 1/3 of Alaskans are either veterans themselves or have immediate family that are veterans. SB 154 looks to highlight career opportunities for our former service members looking for a new way to serve their community as civilians, as well as add adept employees to the state's workforce.

SB 154 enacts a 2 percent bidder preference not to exceed \$5,000 for procurement contracts. These programs aim to offer civilian work experience through industry training, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, or internships for their time while exiting their active service contract.

Eligible entities are those that have employed at least one person enrolled in or recently graduated from, the US Dept. of Defense, SkillBridge, or Army Career Services for servicemembers or spouses.

SB 154 is a win-win for Alaskan businesses and for Alaska's veterans looking to start their new chapter in the civilian workforce.