

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:**Referred:****Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Coulombe, Cronk, Galvin, Groh, Josephson, McCabe, Saddler, Tomaszewski, Wright****SENATORS Bjorkman, Dunbar, Kawasaki, Myers, Merrick, Shower, Bishop, Claman, Stevens****A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; relating to the duties and**
2 **powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; relating to the appointment of an**
3 **assistant adjutant general; creating the military and veteran family help desk in the**
4 **Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; and providing for an effective date."**

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

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

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

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 26.05.180(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) **The adjutant general may, when appointing an assistant adjutant**
13 **general, give preference to a person who has served at least five years in the**
14 **Alaska Army National Guard or the Alaska Air National Guard.** An assistant

adjutant general shall, while holding office, have the grade of brigadier general or a lower grade that the adjutant general may prescribe. On initial appointment, an assistant adjutant general must hold a **federally recognized** [FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED] field-grade commission [WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS SERVICE IN THE ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OR IN THE ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD].

* Sec. 3. 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.

1 the United States;

2 (7) prepare and maintain a strategic plan to

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

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

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

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

10 (8) report to the Joint Armed Services Committee and any special
11 committee of the legislature relating to military and veterans' affairs, if one exists at
12 the time the report is due, issues on the commission's activities over the previous
13 calendar year; the commission shall provide the report in an electronic format and
14 deliver the report by January 31 each year.

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

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 44.35.025. Military and veteran family help desk.** (a) The military and
19 veteran family help desk is created in the Department of Military and Veterans'
20 Affairs.

21 (b) The military and veteran family help desk shall

22 (1) conduct outreach to and advocate on behalf of military members,
23 veterans, and their families;

24 (2) provide direct assistance and information about state services to
25 military members, veterans, and their families;

26 (3) provide information about state statutes and regulations to military
27 members, veterans, and their families;

28 (4) research issues military members, veterans, and their families may
29 be facing and create informational materials relating to those issues;

30 (5) in coordination with military installations, the United States
31 Department of Defense, municipalities, and other departments of the state, provide

1 recommendations to the department for improving assistance to military members,
2 veterans, and their families relating to issues including workforce development,
3 employment, physical and behavioral health, education, and access to child care;

4 (6) assist the family members of a military member in obtaining
5 professional licenses, credentials, or employment in the state;

6 (7) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce
7 Development, develop a standard form for the spouse of a military member to
8 complete that details the spouse's skills, education, and training for the purpose of
9 assisting the spouse in finding employment;

10 (8) encourage a municipality with close economic or community ties to
11 a military installation to create a military and veteran family liaison; and

12 (9) provide an annual report to the adjutant general.

13 (c) In this section, "family member" means a person related to a military
14 member by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the military member's
15 household on a permanent basis.

16 * **Sec. 5.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

17 (15) Alaska Military Affairs Commission (AS 44.19.851) - June 30,
18 2030.

19 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
20 read:

21 ALASKA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION; STAGGERED TERMS. (a)
22 Notwithstanding AS 44.19.857, added by sec. 3 of this Act, and AS 39.05.055, the seats on
23 the Alaska Military Affairs Commission established in AS 44.19.851, added by sec. 3 of this
24 Act, shall be initially filled as follows:

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

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

27 and

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

30 (b) Members appointed to the Alaska Military Affairs Commission under
31 AS 44.19.854(1) - (3), added by sec. 3 of this Act, begin membership on the commission on

1 the effective date of sec. 3 of this Act.

2 * **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 and 4 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).