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Gunther
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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

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

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 26.05.180(a) is amended to read:

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

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

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

8 **Article 5A. Alaska Military Affairs Commission.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (6) advocate for the state in matters related to military expansion
30 decision making by emphasizing the state's strategic location on the globe and existing
31 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 one 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. 4.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

(b) The military and veteran family help desk shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* **Sec. 5.** 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. 6.** 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. 3 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. 3 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 to the Alaska Military Affairs Commission under 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).