

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Bill 126 - Sponsor Statement (29-LS0473\ F.A)

House Bill 126 provides the Alaska National Guard with a comprehensive code of military justice. It functions similarly to the federal code, but was tailored to the needs of Alaska's militia. This bill defines military crimes and their penalties, provides for nonjudicial punishment and courts martial procedures, and limits the jurisdiction of the code to members of the Guard.

Alaska's code has not been substantively updated since statehood and leaves Guard leadership ill-equipped to systematically address violations of military rules and protocol. When the National Guard is called up to federal service, they are subject to the same federal code that applies to all members of the United States armed forces. However, they currently lack the similarly-defined code when non-federalized and subject only to Alaska laws and regulations. House Bill 126 is the solution to this deficiency.

Version F.A of House Bill 126 is the culmination of a year of legislative dialog and feedback, first in the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee, then the Judiciary Committee. All of this has been supported by the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Alaska National Guard. It passed the House unanimously.

I urge your support for House Bill 126.