

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3783
Fax: (907) 465-2293
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783



Interim:

10928 Eagle River Road, Ste. 238
Eagle River, AK 99577
Phone: (907) 622-3783
Fax: (907) 622-3784
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783

REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

Sponsor Statement HB 180

House Bill 180 seeks to help Alaska veterans receive more of the benefits they have earned through their sacrifice and service in uniform, and to which they are entitled by law and custom. It would allow the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to add information to state drivers' licenses or identification cards signifying the holder's status as a veteran, and would allow DMV to share that information with the state's veterans benefit office.

Alaska is among the most veteran-friendly states in the Union. Many businesses and organizations demonstrate their appreciation by offering various discounts, preferences and other benefits to *bona fide* veterans. However, veterans must usually prove they qualify by presenting certified copies of their discharge documents – the DD-214, DD-215, or NGB-22 forms, exposing these critical documents to wear, damage or loss.

By giving veterans a way to carry reliable and convenient proof of their status on state-issued cards, this bill would help them more easily enjoy the full range of personal, business and social benefits offered to them by a grateful state.

HB 180 could also help relieve the situation in which tens of thousands of Alaska veterans may be missing out on significant government benefits, because they have no contact with the state's Office of Veterans Affairs. The bill would allow the DMV to provide the names and addresses of those who are issued veteran-designated driver's licenses or ID cards to the state veterans' office. That office could then reach out to make more veterans aware of programs available to them, and to help them receive any benefits owed to them.

I respectfully request your support for House Bill 180.

Thank you.