

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE BOB MILLER

House Bill 176:

An Act relating to an allowable absence for members of the Department of Defense Civilian Expeditionary Workforce for purposes of determining eligibility for permanent fund dividends; and for an effective date

Sponsor Statement

“After retiring from the military, I was hired to work with the Ft. Wainwright Stryker Brigade as the Safety Officer. The regular deployments take me beyond the 180-day requirement and I am continuously unqualified for the PFD. As an Alaskan resident, that doesn’t seem fair”

- Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Dean Phillips, US Army

Currently, there are over 7,000 civilians working as part of the Alaska Military Community. Of that, there are currently about 53 civilians that are part of the DoD Civilian *Expeditionary* Workforce; a category of civilians hired by the Defense Department, in accordance with DoD Directive 1404.10.

Paragraph d(1) of the directive spells out that these 53 civilians are considered Emergency Essential and the management offices track them specifically as “deployable” whereas the rest of the categories of the DoD Civilian Workforce are not deployable.

The vast majority of civilians that support operations in areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan are not part of the DoD Civilian Expeditionary Workforce. They make a purely economic choice concerning their employment. They do so without official orders and often work in self-employed or contracted positions as non-appropriated funds employees. Of the approximate 53 civilians, less than a dozen deploy more than 180 days annually.

The DoD Civilian Expeditionary Workforce is essentially personnel that are not allowed to wear the full uniform, but deploy on orders and work with service members side-by-side providing direct support during combat and support missions exposed to the same bullets and IED’s as our service members.

These Alaskans undeniably deserve their PFD.

I urge you to join me in supporting House Bill 176.