

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3783
Fax: (907) 465-2293
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783



Interim:

12641 Old Glenn Hwy, Ste. 201
Eagle River, AK 99577
Phone: (907) 622-3783
Fax: (907) 622-3784
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783

REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 357

An Act relating to the purchase of alcoholic beverages at a club and to access by certain persons under 21 years of age to a club's licensed premises when alcoholic beverages are present.

House Bill 357 is an effort to support the young men and women serving in the armed services in Alaska, by clarifying language to make it easier for them to enjoy companionship in the clubhouses of service and patriotic organizations.

Young soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines and coast guard personnel stationed in Alaska face special challenges. Separation from loved ones, the rigors of barracks life and the monotony of three mess hall meals a day can take their toll on morale. Patriotic clubs – such as those operated by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and others – are places to relax with buddies and enjoy the special understanding and support from others who have “been there” and understand the rigors of military life.

The Legislature recognized this value, and in 2006 passed SB 209 to allow these young men and women access to such clubs using their military ID cards. However, some language remains in statute that creates confusion as to when such access is permitted. HB 357 will eliminate that confusion by making it clear that such access is not limited solely to special events.

It is important to note that HB 357 makes no change in law that would allow service members under the age of 21 to purchase or consume alcohol in service clubs.

Your support of HB 357 will be a clear demonstration that Alaska understands and works to address the special needs of those who defend our freedom.