

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Session

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State Affairs Committee

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In-State Energy Committee

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## SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

### Senate Bill 4: Military Training Credit

**SUBJECT:** Separating Service members are frequently delayed or denied getting post-Service employment and education credit even though they have applicable military education, training and experience which can qualify them for licenses and/or provide academic credit towards degree requirements.

**MESSAGE:** Separating Service members leave the military with documented training and experience that can prepare them for civilian employment; however, this documentation is not always used by state entities to qualify them for licenses required for their occupation or to provide them academic credit. Reported unemployment rates of separating Service members that are higher than national averages have brought attention to supporting issues such as expedited licensure and increased academic credit recognition to alleviate this problem.

**BACKGROUND:** As of September 2012, 773,000 thousand Veterans were unemployed and the jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans was 9.9 %, with young male Veterans (ages 18 to 24) experiencing an unemployment rate of 18.1%.<sup>1</sup>

#### SENATE BILL 4:

- Requires the Department of Commerce and Boards to accept military education, training, and service as equivalent to some or all of the qualifications required while applying for a license or certificate.
- Authorizes the issuance of a temporary license or certificate for active duty service members who had an equivalent license or certificate issued by another state.
- Requires the President of the University of Alaska, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to implement a policy and procedure for the acceptance of military education, training and service as academic credit toward a degree or technical program.

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<sup>1</sup> Current Population Survey (CPS), Bureau of Labor Statistics. Monthly Averages. Age 18 years and over. Not Seasonally Adjusted