



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE BILL 126

(29-LS0473\W)

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Alaska's military command has asked for a greater ability to pursue and prosecute those service-members who violate military rules and protocols. House Bill 126 honors that request and lays out a blueprint for administrative procedures for use by National Guard leadership in the state.

Alaska would not be the first state to adopt a state code of military justice and House Bill 126 shares many similarities with the codes from Arizona, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Minnesota. HB 126 will establish authority for the convening of courts-martial for various crimes conducted by National Guard members in Alaska and allows service-members to be delivered to a civilian authority for trial and confinement.

In close and continuing consultation with the National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Judiciary Committee looks forward to the swift passage of HB 126 and guaranteeing the safety of Alaskans and the security of our law-enforcement procedures.

Seeing how badly Alaska's military justice system failed to protect victims and punish serial abusers, HB 126 is timely and necessary.

We urge your support of this legislation.