

**Session:**  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: 907-465-3783



**Interim:**  
12641 Old Glenn Highway, Suite 201  
Eagle River AK, 99577  
Phone: 907-622-3783

**REPRESENTATIVE  
SHARON JACKSON**

Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov  
District 13 – Chugiak- Eagle River – JBER

**House Bill 113  
Sponsor Statement**

**The Blue Star and Gold Star Families Act of 2019**

*“An Act relating to employment preferences for spouses and children of veterans, disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, members of the national guard, and deceased service members”*

The purpose of House Bill 113 is to allow hiring preferences to military spouses and dependent children in the State of Alaska and the private sector.

Military families fall into two categories: Blue Star or Gold Star Families. Blue Star families are military spouses and dependents of active service members and veterans. Gold Star families are usually spouses and children of a deceased service members while in active duty.

In Alaska, veterans with a disability receive a 10 point/or 10% hiring preference and service members transitioning receive a 5 point/5% preference. Current law allows for either automatic interviews or points on a test if a test is required. HB113 would extend these benefits to spouses and dependents.

A recent report from the Department of Defense found that a quarter of military spouses are unemployed or underemployed. There are several efforts being done in all 50 states, but Alaska is one of the few states that do not give employment preferences to military spouses HB113 would also make Alaska the first state to support Gold Star Families. There are roughly 151,881 military dependents out of 68 thousand active members according to the Alaska Department of Military & Veteran Affairs.

This is a small but significant way to honor our service members and their families, who often fall under the cracks while also making a sacrifice to serve their country.