

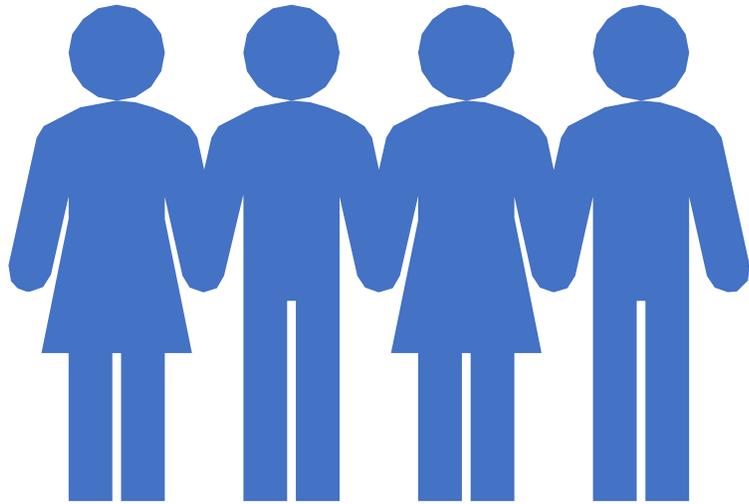
# House Bill 113

Office of Representative Sharon Jackson

# What

HB113 Will extend current hiring preferences to military spouses and dependents of Blue Star and Gold Star spouses and dependents.





## Why?

Military spouses are among the highest unemployed group in the United States, despite their education or experience.

There are about 68,000 Active Military Members and 151,881 Military Dependents in Alaska.

## Top 3 Challenges

- Unemployment – The number of unemployed military spouses averages at more than 40%. That's more than twice the amount compared to the national unemployment rate.
- Underemployment – Low pay. Research shows that military spouses with a college degree earn 40% less than their counterparts. A study from Syracuse University found that 90% of female spouses of active-duty members reported they were underemployed
- Frequent moves – Spouses and dependents move constantly, resulting in employment gaps, lack of networking, not able to find a job with flexibility or simply not living in an optimal location.

# Blue Star and Gold Star Families

## **Blue Star Families**

Spouses and dependents of an active-duty service members or veterans.

## **Gold Star Families**

Spouses and dependents of a deceased member who died while in active duty.

The last Sunday in September—is designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day" by an annual presidential proclamation.

# Alaska's Current Law and HB 113

## Current Law

Veterans with disabilities:

10 points or 10% hiring preferences

Service members transitioning:

5 points or 5% hiring preferences

## HB 113

Will extend these benefits to spouses and dependents

## 24 States provide Veterans' Preferences to Spouses or Surviving Spouses

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Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida	Idaho
Illinois	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine	Minnesota
Nevada	New Jersey	North Dakota	Oklahoma	Pennsylvania
South Dakota	Texas	Utah		

Questions?