

House Bill 297 - Military Member Child Protection

A bill which mandates the reporting by civilian authorities of incidents of the abuse and neglect of military dependent children to the appropriate entities within the chain of command

Sponsor: Representative Grier Hopkins

Department of Defense Defense-State Liaison Office Key Issues 2022

- Alaska is committed to working as a partner with the Department of Defense to accommodate changes in priorities as policies change to align with the evolving mission of DOD

No Action

Bill introduced

Issue advanced

Policy Passed

Key Issues 2022

Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability

Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access

2/2 Sub-issues passed

Licensing Compacts

0/8 Sub-issues passed

Purple Star Schools Program

Advance Enrollment

Open Enrollment Flexibility

In-State Tuition Continuity

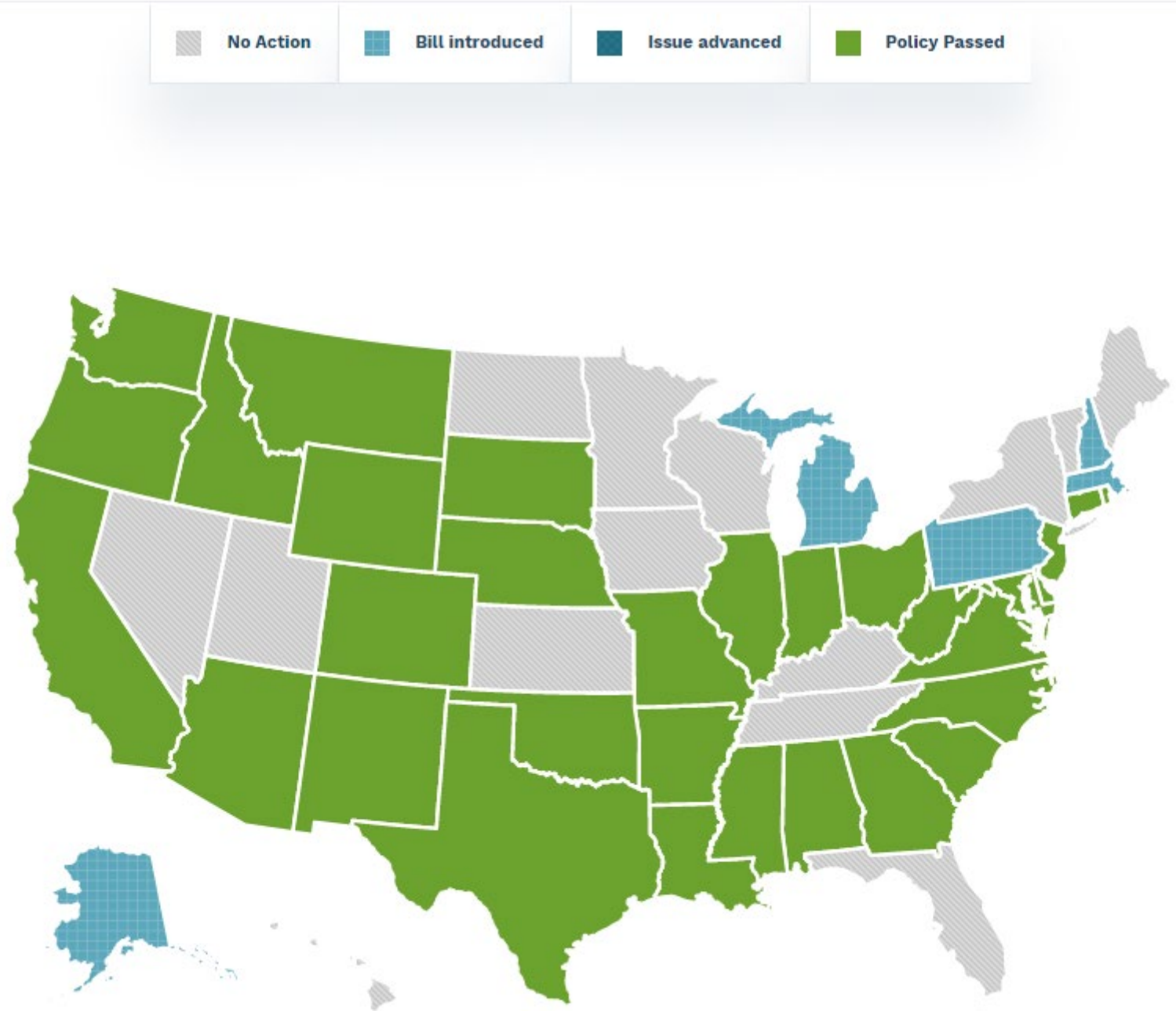
Child Abuse Identification and Reporting

Concurrent Jurisdiction

Ask the Question Campaign

Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Policy Status

- Child Abuse Reporting is one of the ten key issues the Department of Defense advocates for across the nation
- This initiative is part of the Department of Defense's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families
- DOD is required to address child abuse in military families, but with 70% of active-duty families living in civilian communities, service officials are often unaware of problems



Military Children in Alaska

- Alaska has ~180,000 children, of which over 10% are military dependents, with caregivers who are active duty or in the National Guard or Reserves
- Alaska ranks 16th in the USA for rates of reported child abuse
- Since 2003 the reported child abuse in military families has outpaced reported abuse for the civilian population, coinciding with increased deployments and overseas operations

Collaboration and Coordination of Services

- States have the statutory authority and legal responsibility to address child welfare issues for children in their states
- The Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program has the responsibility to prevent and identify abuse and provide services for affected youth and children
- Creation of a reporting requirement and the authority to report will allow for a better quality of care and consistent rehabilitative services for families

Collaboration and Coordination of Services

- This improved continuum of care will help our military families receive the services they need to stay healthy and together
- Having these laws in place helps improve Alaska's national ranking when the Department of Defense is deciding where to place future deployments and infrastructure

Questions?