

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Stanley Wright Chair, House Military and Veterans' Affairs State Capitol Room 412 Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 85—Professional Licensing; Temporary Permits

Chair Wright:

Licensure issues affecting career portability for spouses of military service members have been a priority for the Department for several years. As our military members and their families move from state to state, transferring their licenses in order to obtain employment at their new military assignment is very important to their career sustainability and family financial stability. Policies to enhance existing licensure provisions for military spouses serve to relieve one of the many stressors of frequent military moves.

Currently, AS 08.01.063 ensures a military member or spouse can receive a temporary military courtesy license. We are grateful for the work Alaska has done to provide temporary licenses under this statute. We ask that this committee consider language to align AS 08.01.063 and the proposed changes to AS 08.01.062.

This legislation is especially important for the 34 percent of active duty spouses who need a state issued license to work. The short duration of a military assignment, coupled with the often lengthy relicensing, can sufficiently discourage a military spouse to leave an occupation creating financial instability for the family.

Please contact me at <u>Tammie.L.Perreault.Civ@mail.mil</u> or (571) 424-8264 if you have any questions about our support of this policy.

Respectfully,

Tammie L. Perreault Northwest Regional Liaison (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY) Defense-State Liaison Office Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy)