

SENATE BILL NO. 55

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
MILITARY BASES IN ALASKA

Introduced: 2/4/99

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the Joint Armed Services Committee, a permanent interim
2 committee of the Alaska State Legislature; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

5 (1) the Secretary of Defense, in both the Quadrennial Defense Review and the
6 Defense Reform Initiative, has called for the reestablishment of a Base Realignment and
7 Closure Commission to conduct two new rounds of military base closures;

8 (2) all military bases in Alaska are scheduled for review and evaluation for
9 potential placement on the closure list;

10 (3) the strategic location of the state's military bases, their unparalleled training
11 and maneuver areas, and their modern facilities represent an asset of unmatched military value
12 to the nation;

13 (4) the total economic value that the military adds to the state exceeds
14 \$1,700,000,000 annually;

1 (5) any new base closure or realignment actions in the state would create
2 serious economic and socioeconomic effects for the communities where they are located;

3 (6) the closure of Adak Naval Air Facility and realignment of army activities
4 at Fort Greely by the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission continues to create
5 challenges for communities committed to their productive reuse and integration into the state's
6 economy;

7 (7) the unprecedented proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic
8 missiles constitutes a growing threat to the United States, which has begun to develop a
9 weapons system capable of defending the nation against ballistic missile attack;

10 (8) sites in Alaska are under consideration for the deployment of that system
11 that offer the unmatched military value of strategic location from which all 50 states can be
12 defended as required by the United States Constitution; and

13 (9) as our nation's armed forces continue to shift from a forward deployed
14 force based overseas to a power projection force stationed within the United States, Alaska's
15 modern bases, extensive training areas, and established tradition of joint operations between
16 the individual services offer the United States Department of Defense an unequaled location
17 to organize, train, and deploy the integrated forces the United States requires in the Twenty-
18 First Century.

19 * **Sec. 2.** AS 24.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

20 **Article 5. Joint Armed Services Committee.**

21 **Sec. 24.20.650. Joint Armed Services Committee established.** (a) The Joint
22 Armed Services Committee is established as a permanent interim committee of the
23 legislature.

24 (b) The committee is composed of

25 (1) five members of the senate, at least one of whom is a member of
26 the minority, appointed by the president of the senate;

27 (2) five members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom
28 is a member of the minority, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

29 (3) a state resident, other than a member of the state legislature, who
30 is appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
31 representatives after considering the recommendations of the Alaska chapters of each

1 of the following organizations:

2 (A) the Association of the United States Army;

3 (B) the Air Force Association;

4 (C) the Navy League of the United States;

5 (D) the Marine Corps Association;

6 (4) a state resident, other than a member of the state legislature, who
7 is appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
8 representatives after considering the recommendation of the Seventeenth Coast Guard
9 District Auxiliary;

10 (5) a state resident, other than a member of the state legislature, who
11 is appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
12 representatives after considering the recommendation of the mayor of the Municipality
13 of Anchorage;

14 (6) a state resident, other than a member of the state legislature, who
15 is appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
16 representatives after considering the recommendation of the mayor of the Fairbanks
17 North Star Borough; and

18 (7) a state resident, other than a member of the state legislature, who
19 is appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
20 representatives after considering the recommendation of the adjutant general of the
21 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

22 **Sec. 24.20.655. Terms of office; vacancies.** (a) Each legislative member
23 serves for the duration of the legislature during which the member is appointed. Each
24 public member serves for three years. An individual who has served on the committee
25 may be reappointed.

26 (b) A legislator ceases to be a member of the Joint Armed Services Committee
27 if the legislator ceases to be a member of the house from which the legislator was
28 appointed. When a seat on the committee becomes vacant, it shall be filled within 30
29 days in the manner of the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a
30 vacancy serves for the remainder of the term to which appointed.

31 **Sec. 24.20.660. Travel and per diem allowances.** Members of the Joint

1 Armed Services Committee are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.
2 Members of the committee shall receive per diem allowances in accordance with the
3 policy adopted by the legislative council under AS 24.10.130(c).

4 **Sec. 24.20.665. Meetings.** (a) Eight members of the Joint Armed Services
5 Committee constitute a quorum.

6 (b) The committee members shall select one member from the senate and one
7 member from the house of representatives to serve as co-chairs of the committee.

8 (c) The committee may meet during sessions of the legislature and during
9 intervals between sessions at the times and places the co-chairs may determine.
10 Whenever possible, meetings shall be teleconferenced to reduce travel cost.

11 **Sec. 24.20.670. Administration.** The legislative council shall provide
12 administrative and other services to the Joint Armed Services Committee. Within the
13 limits of the amounts made available to the committee by the legislative council, the
14 committee may make expenditures and enter into contracts to carry out the purposes
15 of AS 24.20.650 - 24.20.675. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the
16 members of the committee and are otherwise subject to procedures adopted by the
17 legislative council under AS 36.30.020.

18 **Sec. 24.20.675. Powers and duties.** (a) The Joint Armed Services Committee
19 shall

20 (1) review and encourage state policies to ensure the continued well-
21 being and education of members of the armed forces, both active and reserve
22 components, stationed in the state, including the Alaska National Guard and the United
23 States Coast Guard, and of dependents of those members;

24 (2) monitor the military base realignment and closure activities of the
25 federal government for bases in the state;

26 (3) work on specific realignments and closures proposed by the federal
27 government for bases in the state;

28 (4) work with the state's congressional delegation regarding federal
29 military base realignments and closings in the state;

30 (5) attend meetings and hearings related to federal realignments and
31 closures of military bases in the state and provide testimony as necessary;

1 (6) review the effect on the state and its communities of federal
2 realignments and closures of military bases in the state;

3 (7) monitor the development of the national ballistic missile defense
4 system and work with the congressional delegation of the state, other state and local
5 government organizations, and community groups to advocate and expedite the
6 deployment of the system in this state;

7 (8) investigate opportunities to increase joint and combined military
8 training in the state;

9 (9) advocate the stationing of reconfigured power projection forces at
10 bases located in the state; and

11 (10) prepare and submit a report of its activities to the legislature on
12 the first day of each second regular session.

13 (b) The committee may appoint a citizens' advisory board. Individuals
14 appointed to an advisory board may not receive reimbursement for travel expenses or
15 per diem allowances.

16 * **Sec. 3.** TRANSITION. The Joint Armed Services Committee established in sec. 2 of this
17 Act is a continuation of the Joint Committee on Military Bases in Alaska established in ch. 31,
18 SLA 1998. Notwithstanding AS 24.20.655(a), enacted in sec. 2 of this Act, members
19 appointed to the Joint Committee on Military Bases in Alaska continue to serve on the Joint
20 Armed Services Committee for terms that end on the day the First Regular Session of the
21 Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature convenes. New members appointed to the Joint
22 Armed Services Committee serve for the terms provided in AS 24.20.655, enacted in sec. 2
23 of this Act.

24 * **Sec. 4.** Chapter 31, SLA 1998, is repealed.

25 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.