

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 249(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 3/1/24

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GROH, Himschoot, Rauscher, Shaw

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act creating the military and veteran family help desk in the Department of**
2 **Military and Veterans' Affairs; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 44.35.025. Military and veteran family help desk.** (a) The military and
6 veteran family help desk is created in the Department of Military and Veterans'
7 Affairs.

8 (b) The military and veteran family help desk shall

9 (1) provide a central point of contact for military members, veterans,
10 and their families seeking information, resources, and state services;

11 (2) provide information about state statutes, regulations, and court
12 decisions to military members, veterans, and their families;

13 (3) cooperate with the University of Alaska to research issues military
14 members, veterans, and their families may be facing;

1 (4) in coordination with local veteran service organizations, agencies,
2 and nonprofit organizations, identify and address the needs of military members,
3 veterans, and their families, facilitate coordination and communication to enhance the
4 range and quality of services, streamline the delivery of services, and share data and
5 information for improving services for military members, veterans, and their families;

6 (5) in coordination with military installations, federal departments that
7 operate branches of the military, municipalities, and other departments of the state,
8 provide recommendations to the department for improving assistance to military
9 members, veterans, and their families relating to issues including workforce
10 development, employment, physical and behavioral health, education, and access to
11 child care;

12 (6) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce
13 Development, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development,
14 and other professional licensing entities, reduce barriers to employment for the
15 spouses of military members;

16 (7) upon request, assist a municipality with close economic or
17 community ties to a military installation in creating a military and veteran family
18 liaison; and

19 (8) provide an annual report to the adjutant general.

20 (c) In this section,

21 (1) "family member" means a person related to a military member or
22 veteran by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the military member's
23 or veteran's household on a permanent basis;

24 (2) "military" means the armed forces of the United States, the United
25 States Coast Guard, or the Alaska National Guard.

26 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).