

SENATE BILL NO. 185

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/16/24

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties**
2 **and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the mayors and public
7 members appointed to the Alaska Military Affairs Commission be geographically distributed
8 to represent as many different communities across the state as possible.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 **Article 5A. Alaska Military Affairs Commission.**

11 **Sec. 44.19.851. Alaska Military Affairs Commission.** The Alaska Military
12 Affairs Commission is established in the Office of the Governor.

13 **Sec. 44.19.854. Commission membership.** The commission is composed of
14 nine members, as follows:

1 (1) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair of the
2 commission;

3 (2) the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans'
4 Affairs or the adjutant general's designee;

5 (3) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic
6 development or the commissioner's designee;

7 (4) three members who are mayors, or their designees, from
8 municipalities with installations of the armed forces of the United States within the
9 municipal boundaries, nominated by an organization that represents municipal
10 governments in the state and appointed by the governor; if, within 60 days after a seat
11 under this paragraph becomes vacant, an organization that represents municipal
12 governments in the state fails to nominate one or more persons to fill the seat, the
13 governor may appoint any qualified person; an organization that represents municipal
14 governments in the state shall nominate, and the governor shall appoint, members
15 under this paragraph so that, collectively, the installations represent different branches
16 of the armed forces of the United States, and so that one of the members, to the extent
17 possible, represents a geographic region not otherwise represented on the commission;

18 (5) two public members with extensive military experience or
19 expertise, each representing a different branch of the armed forces of the United
20 States, appointed by the governor;

21 (6) one public member with statewide business or economic
22 development experience, appointed by the governor.

23 **Sec. 44.19.857. Terms.** Members appointed under AS 44.19.854(4) - (6) serve
24 staggered terms of three years until reappointed or replaced and may be reappointed.

25 **Sec. 44.19.860. Meetings, quorum, and administrative support.** (a) A
26 majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the
27 purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The
28 commission shall meet quarterly and at other times determined by the chair.

29 (b) Members of the commission serve without compensation but are entitled
30 to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under
31 AS 39.20.180.

1 (c) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative support to the
2 commission.

3 **Sec. 44.19.863. Duties of the commission.** The commission shall

4 (1) provide advice, counsel, and actionable recommendations on
5 military issues, and economic and industrial development related to military issues, to
6 the governor, state agencies, the legislature, communities, and the state's congressional
7 delegation;

8 (2) provide recommendations to expand and grow the current presence
9 of the armed forces in the state, including new bases, expanded missions, and
10 increased training;

11 (3) plan for state infrastructure needs to support military objectives;

12 (4) recommend methods to improve private and public employment
13 opportunities for the families of current and former members of the military who
14 reside in the state;

15 (5) assist communities in the design and execution of programs that
16 enhance the community's relationship with installations of the armed forces of the
17 United States and defense-related businesses;

18 (6) advocate for the state's decision-making authority in matters related
19 to military expansion by emphasizing the state's strategic location on the globe and
20 existing infrastructure and work to build community support in the state for the armed
21 forces of the United States;

22 (7) prepare and maintain a strategic plan to

23 (A) protect the state's existing military missions;

24 (B) position the state to be competitive for new and expanded
25 military missions;

26 (C) promote the long-term viability and prosperity of the
27 military and industries related to national defense in the state; and

28 (D) consider all current and anticipated base realignment and
29 closure criteria affecting bases in the state;

30 (8) report to the Joint Armed Services Committee and any special
31 committee of the legislature relating to military and veterans' affairs, if such

1 committee exists at the time the report is due, issues on the commission's activities
2 over the previous calendar year; the commission shall provide the report in an
3 electronic format and deliver the report by January 31 each year.

4 **Sec. 44.19.866. Definition.** In AS 44.19.851 - 44.19.866, "commission" means
5 the Alaska Military Affairs Commission.

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

7 (15) Alaska Military Affairs Commission (AS 44.19.851) - June 30,
8 2030.

9 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 ALASKA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION; STAGGERED TERMS. (a)
12 Notwithstanding AS 44.19.857, added by sec. 2 of this Act, and AS 39.05.055, the seats on
13 the Alaska Military Affairs Commission established in AS 44.19.851, added by sec. 2 of this
14 Act, shall be initially filled as follows:

15 (1) the members appointed under AS 44.19.854(4) shall serve one-year terms;

16 (2) the members appointed under AS 44.19.854(5) shall serve two-year terms;

17 and

18 (3) the member appointed under AS 44.19.854(6) shall serve a three-year

19 term.

20 (b) Members appointed under AS 44.19.854(1) - (3) begin membership on the Alaska
21 Military Affairs Commission on the effective date of this Act.