

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

April 25, 2023

1:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Stanley Wright, Chair
Representative Laddie Shaw
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Cliff Groh
Representative Andrew Gray

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Ben Carpenter

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

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

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 155

SHORT TITLE: ESTABLISH AK MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) STAPP

04/10/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/10/23	(H)	MLV
04/20/23	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
04/20/23	(H)	Heard & Held
04/20/23	(H)	MINUTE (MLV)
04/25/23	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

BRITNEY SMART, Assistant
Mayor Bryce Ward
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 155.

TIM JONES, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 155.

JOMO STUART, President
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 155.

REPRESENTATIVE WILL STAPP
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 155, as prime sponsor.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:06:50 PM](#)

CHAIR STANLEY WRIGHT called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Representatives Groh, Gray, Shaw, Rauscher, Saddler, and Wright were present at the call to order.

HB 155-ESTABLISH AK MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

[1:07:32 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 155, "An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission."

[1:08:05 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT opened public testimony on HB 155.

[1:08:29 PM](#)

BRITNEY SMART, Assistant, Mayor Bryce Ward, Fairbanks North Star Borough, expressed support for HB 155, on behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. She expressed the opinion that the commission the bill proposes would help veterans integrate into communities.

[1:09:45 PM](#)

TIM JONES, representing self, shared that he served 27 years in the U.S. Army and retired in Fairbanks in 2011. He stated that he participates in the town's local Tiger Team, which works to help military families in communities. As budgets tighten, he pointed out that the military would be looking more at its decisions concerning its bases. He stated that it is important for Alaska to have a knowledgeable, committed, and permanent group that seeks out ways to build synergy between military and civilian communities. He shared that he has recently served on the governor's Alaska Civilian Armed Services Team, which was formed to address statewide issues relating to the military in the state. He stated that the group had served to advise the governor and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; however, recently it was allowed to sunset. He suggested that the proposed legislation would create a commission that would provide similar services for Alaska on a more permanent basis. He suggested that the proposed commission be made of members who are knowledgeable of the operational requirements, as well as the social needs of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard installations and the communities they operate in. Furthermore, he suggested that the commission should have a voice with lawmakers and the administration.

[1:12:31 PM](#)

JOMO STUART, President, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, expressed the opinion that HB 155 is a great bill. He said that the state should not be shy about properly resourcing and staffing this sort of commission so that it can be most effective in pursuing its goals.

[1:14:00 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 155.

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REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER referred to the comment made by Mr. Jones suggesting that the commission should represent the executive and legislative branches. He asked whether a representative from the Joint-Armed Services Committee should be on the commission.

REPRESENTATIVE STAPP expressed approval of the idea.

[HB 155 was held over.]

[1:16:10 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.