

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
February 25, 2025
11:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Ted Eischeid, Chair
Representative Andrew Gray
Representative Carolyn Hall
Representative Zack Fields
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Jamie Allard
Representative David Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 17

"An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service."

- MOVED HB 17 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 17

SHORT TITLE: DISABLED VETERANS: RETIREMENT BENEFITS

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) RAUSCHER

01/22/25	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(H)	MLV, FIN
02/18/25	(H)	MLV AT 10:15 AM BARNES 124
02/18/25	(H)	Heard & Held
02/18/25	(H)	MINUTE(MLV)
02/25/25	(H)	MLV AT 11:15 AM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

AUSTIN FLAVIN, representing self
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 17.

REPERSENTATIVE GEORGE RAUSCHER

Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented HB 17 to the committee.

CRAIG VALDEZ, Staff
Representative George Rauscher
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of Representative George Rauscher, prime sponsor, answered committee questions on HB 17.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[11:15:49 AM](#)

CHAIR EISCHEID called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Representatives Gray, Nelson, Hall, Fields, Allard, and Eischeid were present at the call to order. Representative Saddler arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 17-DISABLED VETERANS: RETIREMENT BENEFITS

[11:16:46 AM](#)

CHAIR EISCHEID announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 17, "An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service."

[11:17:02 AM](#)

CHAIR EISCHEID opened public testimony on HB 17.

[11:17:57 AM](#)

AUSTIN FLAVIN, representing self, testified in support of HB 17. He said that HB 17 is a "good idea for other veterans like myself" and highlighted his career with both the state of Alaska and the military. He said that HB 17 would increase the quality of life for veterans in Alaska and said that HB 17's proposed benefits are "not a handout, they are what I paid for."

[11:24:04 AM](#)

CHAIR EISCHEID, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 17.

[11:24:43 AM](#)

REPERSENTATIVE GEORGE RAUSCHER, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented HB 17 to the committee. He thanked the committee for their time in hearing HB 17 and shared his support for an equitable retirement system for Alaska's military veterans.

[11:26:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked Representative Rauscher to outline what a "normal retirement benefit" means as is mentioned in lines 4-5 of HB 17 and asked if there was an estimate of how many Alaskans would be affected by HB 17.

[11:26:44 AM](#)

CRAIG VALDEZ, Staff, Representative George Rauscher, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative George Rauscher, prime sponsor, answered committee questions on HB 17. He said that page 1, line 5 of the proposed legislation is already referring to a normal retirement benefit that military veterans would receive at age 60. He explained that the state doesn't have any exact numbers regarding the amount of veterans who are enrolled in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III benefits of the historic Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

[11:28:51 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY moved to report HB 17 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 17 was reported from the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.

[11:29:18 AM](#)

CHAIR EISCHEID delivered committee announcements.

[11:29:44 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.