

**HB**

**210**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**Vice Chair:**

Joint Armed Services Committee

**Member:**

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Labor and Commerce Committee

State Affairs Committee

Economic Development, Trade, &

Tourism Committee



**Session:**

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## REPRESENTATIVE NANCY DAHLSTROM

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### Sponsor Statement House Bill 210 – Adjutant General Qualifications

House Bill 210, "An act relating to the appointment and qualifications of the adjutant general," is before us to bring attention to the importance of guard duty in relation to its leadership.

In recent years, the Alaska National Guard has undergone major changes. It has seen organizational restructure, increased deployment responsibility and additional missions at home. With the amplified demand for the Alaska National Guard, it is imperative for our state's adjutant general be adequately qualified.

House Bill 210's intent is to positively impact troop morale by appointing leaders who have shared similar experiences and walked in their shoes. Knowing their leader has been down a similar path will create a deeper respect within the troops.

The National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. is considering an increase in rank for the bureau chief, from three-star to four-star. Increasing the rank from major general to lieutenant general will give the Alaska National Guard a jump start on this initiative and make our adjutant general more qualified and better received when working with issues back in Washington, D.C. An increase in rank will not impact the state budget and will not increase the adjutant general's salary as a state employee.

It is important to note this legislation does not limit the power of the Governor to appoint a viable candidate as Adjutant General/Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This legislation is supported by the Administration and I ask for your favorable consideration.

**John Bruce Gazaway  
4420 Edinburgh Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502**

March 28, 2008

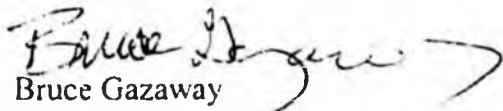
To the House of Representatives:

House Bill 210 is an important measure and we urge your support to pass this bill.

As a member of the Alaska National Guard for 25 years, I believe that troop morale and well being is higher when an Adjutant General comes from the ranks of the Alaska National Guard. When a person has at least five years experience with an organization one gains a knowledge and understanding of where we have come from and where we need to go.

It has been difficult in the past when an Adjutant General has had no Alaska National Guard experience. Without a clear understanding of the state and the responsibilities of the Alaska National Guard, Adjutant Generals can drive enlisted Soldiers and Airmen to leave the organization.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gazaway  
Technical Sergeant  
Alaska Air National Guard

PROPOSAL FOR A STATE OF ALASKA RESOLUTION AMENDMENT

RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN ALASKA STATUTE AS.26.05.160. FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently in the State of Alaska, the Governor is essentially free to appoint nearly anyone he/she chooses to be The Adjutant General for Alaska, the highest military position of the Alaska National Guard. At the same time, the requirements for appointment of the two (Army and Air Guard) Assistant Adjutant Generals, require that they have served at least five (5) years in the Alaska National Guard, be able to be Federally recognized as General Officers, and other specific statutory and regulatory requirements.

This creates both a real and perceived disparity between two militarily qualified General Officers and their potential immediate military leader that is unacceptable. Also, someone who has no knowledge of the Alaska National Guard tends to spend most of their time just trying to learn about our capabilities and challenges, the Alaska military and political environments and the State military needs. This is contrary to someone who has come from within the organization. Also, the military training, experience, schooling requirements to include the War College are intense and cumulative to achieve the level of General Officer in today's National Guard. Someone who has not served in the higher military ranks also should not be considered to be placed in a military command position at the level of Adjutant General.

**PROPOSED ACTION;**

Due to our overwhelming support for HB 210, we recommend immediate passage, support and swift approval throughout the legislative process on this action.



Mike Bridges  
Past President, Legislative Affairs Chair, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association  
(907) 952-3878  
[brimn@uci.net](mailto:brimn@uci.net)

From a resolution at the Annual General Business meeting.

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**From:** mark [fishes2@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 06, 2007 12:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom  
**Subject:** Thank you for HB210

Nancy,  
Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Alaska's National Guard. (HB210)

As a twenty year Guard Guy I have seen the devastating impact of a politicized officer corp.  
During the post cold war draw down many good Guard Officers were forced out and replaced by Active Army Officers who lost positions in the Active component.

It is comforting to know that with your bill the AG will have enough time in the Alaska Guard to understand the world class nature of our units.  
This is a great morale boost at a pivotal time you should be commended for your actions on behalf of Alaska's Guard.  
BRAVO!

Mark Fish