

SENATE BILL NO. 154 am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Dunbar, Kawasaki, Tobin, Gray-Jackson, Claman, Myers

REPRESENTATIVES Wright, Groh, Josephson

Amended: 5/9/24

Introduced: 5/17/23

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 36.30.321(i) is amended to read:

6 (i) To qualify for a preference under (b), (d), [OR] (f), or (I) of this section, a
7 bidder or offeror must add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and
8 supervising the services provided, or the bidder or offeror must have sold supplies of
9 the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other governments, or the general
10 public.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 36.30.321 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (I) If a bidder or offeror qualifies as an Alaska bidder and is a qualifying
13 entity, a two-percent preference shall be applied to the price in the bid or proposal.
14 The preference may not exceed \$5,000. In this subsection, "qualifying entity" means

1 an entity that

2 (1) employs at least one person who is currently enrolled in, or within
3 the previous two years graduated from, a United States Department of Defense
4 SkillBridge or United States Army career skills program for service members or
5 spouses of service members that offers civilian work experience through specific
6 industry training, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, or internships during
7 the last 180 days before a service member separates or retires from the service; or

8 (2) has an active partnership with an entity that employs an apprentice
9 through a program described in (1) of this subsection.

10 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (5) in coordination with military installations, federal departments that
27 operate branches of the military, municipalities, and other departments of the state,
28 provide recommendations to the department for improving assistance to military
29 members, veterans, and their families relating to issues including workforce
30 development, employment, physical and behavioral health, education, and access to
31 child care;

1 (6) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce
2 Development, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development,
3 and other professional licensing entities, reduce barriers to employment for the
4 spouses of military members;

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

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

9 (c) In this section,

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

13 (2) "military" means the armed forces of the United States, the United
14 States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
15 Commissioned Officer Corps, the United States Public Health Service Commissioned
16 Corps, or the Alaska National Guard.

17 * **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).