

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/15/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Tomaszewski, Coulombe

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, appointed by the governor; the governor shall appoint members
10 under this paragraph so that, collectively, the installations represent different branches
11 of the armed forces of the United States, and one of whom, to the extent possible,
12 representing a geographic region not otherwise represented on the commission;

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

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

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

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

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

27 (c) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative support to the
28 commission.

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

30 (1) provide advice, counsel, and actionable recommendations on
31 military issues, and economic and industrial development related to military issues, to

1 the governor, state agencies, the legislature, communities, and the state's congressional
2 delegation;

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

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

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

10 (5) assist and advise communities and the state in the design and
11 execution of programs that enhance communities' relationships with installations of
12 the armed forces of the United States and defense-related businesses, including in the
13 areas of public school education, in-state higher education and training, cultural and
14 recreational community assets, and housing and energy affordability;

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

19 (7) prepare and maintain a strategic plan to

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

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

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

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

27 (8) report to the Joint Armed Services Committee and any special
28 committee of the legislature relating to military and veterans' affairs, if such
29 committee exists at the time the report is due, issues on the commission's activities
30 over the previous calendar year; the commission shall provide the report in an
31 electronic format and deliver the report by January 31 each year.

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

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

4 (15) Alaska Military Affairs Commission (AS 44.19.851) - June 30,
5 2030.

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

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

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

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

14 and

15 (3) the member appointed under AS 44.19.854(6) shall serve a three-year
16 term.

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