

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 174(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/17/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR BJORKMAN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the Honor and Remember Flag and the Honor and Sacrifice Flag."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 44.09 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 **Sec. 44.09.097. Honor and Remember Flag.** (a) The Honor and Remember
5 Flag is designated as an official symbol of the state for the purpose of recognizing and
6 honoring members of the armed forces of the United States who have died in the line
7 of duty and their families.

8 (b) The design of the Honor and Remember Flag is a red field signifying the
9 blood spilled by brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for freedom, a blue
10 star symbolizing active service in military conflict, a white border representing the
11 purity of sacrifice, a gold star signifying the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active
12 service who is not returning home and reflecting the value of a life given, a folded flag
13 element signifying the final tribute to a fallen member of the armed forces and
14 highlighting a family's sacrifice, and a flame signifying the eternal spirit of the
15 departed.

1 (c) The Honor and Remember Flag may be displayed at the locations listed in
2 (d) of this section on any day, including

- 3 (1) the third Saturday in May, known as Armed Forces Day;
4 (2) the last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day;
5 (3) the Friday immediately preceding Memorial Day, known as Alaska
6 Veterans' Poppy Day;
7 (4) the 14th of June, known as Flag Day;
8 (5) the fourth of July, known as Independence Day;
9 (6) the third Friday in September, known as National POW/MIA
10 Recognition Day;
11 (7) the last Sunday in September, known as Gold Star Mother's Day;
12 and
13 (8) the 11th of November, known as Veterans Day.

14 (d) The Honor and Remember Flag may be displayed at the following
15 locations on the days listed under (c) of this section:

- 16 (1) the state capitol;
17 (2) a court facility; in this paragraph, "court facility" has the meaning
18 given in AS 22.05.025(b);
19 (3) the main municipal office location of each municipality;
20 (4) memorials to Alaska veterans constructed under AS 44.35.030; and
21 (5) Alaska veterans' cemeteries established and maintained under
22 AS 44.35.035.

23 (e) An employee of the state or a municipality may not be required to report to
24 work solely for the purpose of displaying the Honor and Remember Flag.

25 (f) The commissioner of administration may adopt regulations to implement
26 this section.

27 **Sec. 44.09.099. Honor and Sacrifice Flag.** (a) The Honor and Sacrifice Flag
28 is designated as an official symbol of the state for the purpose of recognizing and
29 honoring the selfless service and individual sacrifice of firefighters and law
30 enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and their families.

31 (b) The design of the Honor and Sacrifice Flag is a blue field symbolizing the

1 national law enforcement community; a purple field signifying mourning the loss of a
 2 firefighter; a white field symbolizing the purity of heart within individuals who serve,
 3 protect, and are willing to face the challenges of each day regardless of risk; a black
 4 star representing the individuals who wear the distinctive badge, including sheriffs and
 5 members of the United States Marshal Service; a red Maltese cross recognizing the
 6 individuals who have fallen while serving in emergency response communities; a gold
 7 shield symbolizing the value of life given and recognizing all law enforcement officers
 8 and other public safety representatives who wear a shield, including emergency
 9 medical technicians, and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; a
 10 folded flag element signifying the final tribute to an individual fallen for the sake of
 11 others and highlighting a family's sacrifice; and a flame signifying an eternal reminder
 12 of the spirit that has departed this life yet burns on in the memory of all who knew and
 13 loved the fallen hero.

14 (c) The Honor and Sacrifice Flag may be displayed at the locations listed in
 15 (d) of this section on any day, including

- 16 (1) the ninth of January, known as National Law Enforcement Day;
- 17 (2) the fourth of May, known as International Firefighters Day;
- 18 (3) the 15th of May, known as Peace Officers Memorial Day;
- 19 (4) the 14th of June, known as Flag Day;
- 20 (5) the fourth of July, known as Independence Day; and
- 21 (6) the 11th of September, known as National Day of Service and
 22 Remembrance.

23 (d) The Honor and Sacrifice Flag may be displayed at the following locations
 24 on the days listed under (c) of this section:

- 25 (1) the state capitol;
- 26 (2) a court facility; in this paragraph, "court facility" has the meaning
 27 given in AS 22.05.025(b);
- 28 (3) each office of the Department of Public Safety, each state trooper
 29 headquarters and station established under AS 18.65.030, and the Public Safety
 30 Training Academy for state troopers;
- 31 (4) the main municipal office location of each municipality; and

1 (5) memorials to state firefighters or law enforcement.

2 (e) An employee of the state or a municipality may not be required to report to
3 work solely for the purpose of displaying the Honor and Sacrifice Flag.

4 (f) The commissioner of administration may adopt regulations to implement
5 this section.

6 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 **CONDITIONAL EFFECT.** AS 44.09.097(c)(3), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, takes
9 effect only if SB 159 or a similar bill establishing Alaska Veterans' Poppy Day is passed by
10 the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature and enacted into law.