

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 249(MLV)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**Offered: 3/1/24**

**Referred: Finance**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GROH, Himschoot**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (5) in coordination with military installations, federal departments that  
7 operate branches of the military, municipalities, and other departments of the state,  
8 provide recommendations to the department for improving assistance to military  
9 members, veterans, and their families relating to issues including workforce  
10 development, employment, physical and behavioral health, education, and access to  
11 child care;

12 (6) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce  
13 Development, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development,  
14 and other professional licensing entities, reduce barriers to employment for the  
15 spouses of military members;

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

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

20 (c) In this section,

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

24 (2) "military" means the armed forces of the United States, the United  
25 States Coast Guard, or the Alaska National Guard.

26 \* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).