

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2755

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 22, 2008

Title: An act relating to veterans' scoring criteria.

Brief Description: Adjusting veterans' scoring criteria.

Sponsors: Representatives Kelley, Rodne, Hunt, Green, Wallace, Seaquist, Goodman, VanDeWege, Lantz, McCune, Hurst, Conway, Morrell and Haigh.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/07/08, 95-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/22/08 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

Staff: Cindy Calderon (786-7784)

Background: State law provides that honorably discharged veterans receive preference in public employment. In all competitive examinations for state and local public employment, veterans are given a scoring criteria (a percentage) to be added to a passing score. The added percentage varies based on the veteran's status. A veteran who served during a period of war or armed conflict, and does not receive military retirement, is eligible for 10 percent preference. A veteran who did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict, or is receiving military retirement, is eligible for 5 percent preference. A veteran who is called to active military service for one or more years from employment with the state is eligible for a 5 percent preference for the first promotional examination.

Summary of Bill: A veteran who is called to active military service from state employment is eligible for the 5 percent preference. The requirement that active military service be one or more years is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill will affect approximately 2,000 people; of that number approximately 10 percent have problems. We need to even the playing field for those who serve. This bill provides an incentive to join the Reserves.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Kelley, prime sponsor; Skip Dreps, Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America.