

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5970

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As of January 14, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to a veteran's preference for the purpose of public employment.

**Brief Description:** Addressing a veteran's preference for the purpose of public employment.

**Sponsors:** Senators Carrell, Conway, Becker, Swecker, Morton, Shin, Kilmer, Hobbs and Chase.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections: 1/12/12.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Sharon Swanson (786-7447)

**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 a 5 percent preference.

**Summary of Bill:** A veteran who receives military retirement pay must receive the same veterans' preference, in relation to hiring as well as lay off or reemployment decisions, as received by other veterans.

Veteran scoring criteria status may be claimed upon receipt of separation orders issued by the military if the orders indicate an honorable discharge. The status becomes permanent upon actual separation.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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*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.*

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This is a good bill. All veterans who honorably served their country should be treated the same. This bill removes any distinction between veterans preference based on whether or not a veteran receives a pension.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Jim Sims, Veterans Legislative Coalition.