



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 952

PRINTERS NO. 2043

PRIME SPONSOR: Regan

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 952, Printer's Number 2043, provides for updates for employment requirements and preferences related to veterans' preference.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to update definitions, requirements and provide a hiring preference for qualified veterans seeking public employment in seeking public employment in classified and unclassified services.

It adds several new definitions, while also modifying and changing others such as repealing the definition of "soldier" and replacing it with "veteran." Under the new definition, an eligible veteran is someone who: completed their initial contractual military obligation and has been released under other than dishonorable conditions; completed their initial contractual military obligation and continues to serve; served during a period of war or armed conflict, completed a tour of active duty for purposes other than training, and was released from that period of active duty under other than dishonorable conditions; or is completing a tour of active duty that is three years or more and is within 90 days of an approved discharge or release.

Another definition added is "Statement of service" which is "a statement of service for veterans on active duty or individuals who are still members of a reserve component or National Guard who must provide a statement signed by, or at the direction of the adjutant, personnel office or commander of the unit or higher headquarters to which the applicant has completed their initial contractual service obligations or is transitioning from active duty of the United States Armed Forces on terminal or transitional leave."

Additional language states that a veteran's civil service exam will receive an additional 10 points to the final score and the score will determine the applicant's standing on any eligible list. A veteran may not begin or hold the public position until proof of discharge papers or separation documents are provided.

Appointing authorities shall also consider relevant training and education received during the veteran's service in lieu of formal training and education. Age, loss of limb or other physical

impairments that do not incapacitate a veteran shall not be used to disqualify the veteran, provided the veteran possesses the requisite qualifications.

The bill includes reporting provisions requiring the following:

(a) Office of Administration report.--The Office of Administration shall provide a consolidated report to the Adjutant General depicting the previous fiscal year's statistics for veterans appointed by the Commonwealth into non-civil service and civil service positions, including aggregate totals by agency.

(b) Department report.--The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall provide an annual report on this chapter to the chair and minority chair of the State Government Committee of the Senate, the chair and minority chair of the State Government Committee of the House of Representatives, the chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives.

The department also shall annually establish veterans' preference guidelines and verify the Federal qualifying periods of service during a war or armed conflict to ensure understanding of the required documents and compliance with this chapter and Chapter 72 (relating to voluntary veterans' preference in private employment).

This legislation would take effect in 60 days after enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 19, 2020

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.