

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 952

PRINTER NO. 1370

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

November 12, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Regan

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 952 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for clarification of "veterans' preference."

Chapter 71 (relating to veterans' preference) of Title 51 is amended as follows:

- Stipulates the purpose of Chapter 71 is to provide a hiring preference to qualified veterans seeking public employment;
- Defines "DD214" as a United States Department of Defense Report of Separation Form 214 or a similarly effective form issued by the Department of Defense relating to separation from military service;
- Defines "DD215" as a United States Department of Defense Incomplete Awards, Decorations and Discharges Form 215 or similarly effective form issued by the Department of Defense to correct errors or make additions to a DD214 in order to ensure that the veteran has accurate discharge documentation;
- Defines "discharge papers or separation documents" as a DD214, DD215 or NGB-22 form;
- Defines "NGB-22" as a National Guard Bureau Report of Separation and Record of Service Form 22 or a similarly effective form issued by the National Guard Bureau relating to separation from military service, specifically in the National Guard;
- Defines "requisite qualifications" as the experience, education, academic success, training, certifications, proficiencies, interpersonal skills and intangibles required for an applicant to successfully perform in a public position;
- Defines "spouse of a disabled veteran" as the spouse of a veteran who has been classified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Benefits Administration as having a permanent total disability;
- Defines "surviving spouse" as an unmarried spouse of a deceased service member;

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- Defines "veteran" as an individual who served, as evidenced by the veteran's discharge papers or separation documents, or hereafter serves:
 - 1) in the armed forces of the United States, including a reserve component and National Guard, completed initial contractual military service obligation and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable;
 - 2) in the armed forces of the United States, including a reserve component and National Guard, served during a period of war or armed conflict, completed a tour of active duty for purposes other than training, was released from that period of active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and continues to serve; or
 - 3) in the armed forces of the United States, including a reserve component and National Guard, completed an initial contractual military service obligation and continues to serve.
- Replaces all references to the term "soldier" with "veteran;"
- Provides that an additional 10 points shall be added to a veteran's final examination score after successfully passing a Commonwealth or municipal examination. Such score shall determine the veteran's standing on any eligible list certified or provided to the appointing authority or municipal agency;
- Requires an appointing authority to consider relevant training and education received by a veteran during the veteran's service and prohibits age or loss of limb or other physical impairment that does not incapacitate from being used to disqualify the veteran provided that the veteran possesses the requisite qualifications to satisfactorily perform in the appointment;
- Provides for computation of seniority for reduction in force to allow for a veteran's total years of service in the armed forces, including a reserve component and National Guard during any period of war or armed conflict, to be added to the veteran's total years of service in the civil service or on public works. A "women's organization officially connected" to the armed forces of the United States is excluded as a component for calculating seniority;
- Extends the same hiring preference afforded to veterans under this chapter to the surviving spouse or spouse of a disabled veteran;
- Provides that the Office of Administration shall provide annual statistics to the Adjutant General and subsequently instructs the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (department) to provide an annual report to the State Government Committee and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and
- Provides that the department 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 Chapters 71 and 72 (relating to voluntary veterans' preference in private employment).

Chapter 72 (relating to voluntary veterans' preference in private employment) of Title 51 is amended to reflect the same definitions as defined in Chapter 71.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the department, enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.