

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 849

PRINTER NO. 1043

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

August 30, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Stefano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 849 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to clarify in statute that veterans with a medical discharge shall receive veterans' preference.

This legislation specifically amends Section 7101.2 (relating to definitions) of Chapter 71 (relating to Veterans' Preference) as follows:

- The term "surviving spouse" is amended to read "An unmarried spouse of a deceased veteran," rather than "deceased service member;"
- "Under conditions other than dishonorable" is added to read, "A condition in which a recipient of a discharge from service is any of the following:
 - 1) A recipient of an honorable discharge;
 - 2) A recipient of a general, under honorable conditions, discharge; and
 - 3) A recipient of a discharge under other than honorable conditions for which the recipient has been determined to be eligible for benefits afforded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The term "veteran" is amended to include an individual "in the armed forces of the U.S. including a reserve component or National Guard, whose last discharge was due to a disability and under conditions other than dishonorable."

Additionally, Section 7102 (relating to definitions) of Chapter 72 (relating to Voluntary Veterans' Preference in Private Employment) is amended with the same language as above.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation simply clarifies the original intent of "veterans' preference" in Title 51. Under current interpretation, a veteran who served honorably but was discharged with a disability before completing their initial obligation would not be eligible for veterans' preference.

Enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.