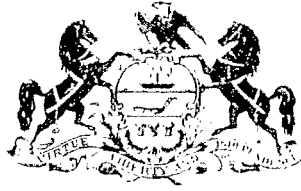


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY,
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January 10, 2011

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Re-Introduction of Legislation – (Previously HB 410)
Veterans and the Civil Service Commission

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ron Marsico

I am re-introducing legislation that would require that at least one member of the State Civil Service Commission be a veteran. As evidenced by a report released by the state auditor general, this legislation is desperately needed and I would, again, ask for your support.

The State Civil Service Commission is made up of three full-time members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and serve six-year terms. My legislation would apply to the next six-year term that becomes available.

Among the many benefits provided to our veterans in Pennsylvania is what is known as “Veterans’ Preference.” Current law under Chapter 71 of Title 51 of the Military Affairs Code requires that the appointing authority give preference to a veteran who meets the required qualifications for a public position.

Past court cases, especially the most recent “Cutler” decision, have shown that there exists a real need to provide for an advocate within the Civil Service system who understands the challenges faced by veterans whose names appear on one or more civil service lists upon passing the exam. It is my hope that a fellow veteran on this commission would better serve the needs of our veteran community.

According to the Auditor General’s report, 25 state agencies filled at least 569 civil service employment positions without considering eligible veterans seeking employment, even though the agencies requested employment lists that included these veterans with test scores among the top three highest-scoring job candidates. This needs to change immediately.

Veterans who have served their country and are entitled to this benefit deserve more than having to acquire a private attorney to represent them when they feel that the State Civil Service Commission or other state or local entity has erred in applying the veterans' preference principle.

Previous HB 410 co-sponsors: Baker, Barrar, Belfanti, Benninghoff, Beyer, Caltagirone, Causer, D. Costa, Creighton, Ellis, Everett, Fairchild, Fleck, Gingrich, Grell, Harhart, Harris, Hess, Hutchinson, M. Keller, Kirkland, Longietti, Major, Miller, Moul, Mundy, Murt, Payne, Petri, Quinn, Rapp, Readshaw, Reichley, Roae, Rock, Rohrer, Siptroth, Stevenson, True, Vulakovich, Walko, Youngblood, Gibbons, Geist, Clymer, Hornaman, Santoni, Wansacz, Mensch, Swanger and Marshall

If you would like to co-sponsor this bill, please contact Anna or Michelle at 783-2014 or via e-mail at mmoore@pahousegop.com. Thank you.