

SCOTT PERRY, MEMBER
92ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

E-MAIL: SPERRY@PAHOUSEGOP.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.REPPERRY.COM



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

CAPITOL OFFICE:
PO BOX 202092
ROOM 54-A, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2092
PHONE: (717) 783-8783
FAX: (717) 772-9869

DISTRICT OFFICE:
725-D NORTH US ROUTE 15
DILLSBURG, PA 17019
PHONE: (717) 432-0792
FAX: (717) 432-0795
TOLL FREE: 1-800-283-1708

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Scott Perry *SGP*
92nd Legislative District

DATE: February 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – (Veterans’ Preference)

In the near future, I am planning to introduce legislation that will amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) to further define and clarify the circumstances under which veterans’ preference may be given in civil service and non-civil service appointments.

In 2008, Auditor General Jack Wagner released a report of a special performance audit conducted on the Veterans’ Preference Program administered by the State Civil Service Commission. The audit found that veterans were not given hiring preference for civil service employment positions because of inadequate policies and procedures and a lack of oversight.

Specifically, the bill will enhance the Veterans’ Preference Act by modifying the provisions to conform to established case law and will add a new section to Title 51 to address the perceived ambiguity in the law and authorize the application of veterans’ preference for external promotions only. As a matter of background, Pennsylvania appellate courts have interpreted various aspects of the Veterans’ Preference Act; however, the courts have not yet ruled upon veterans’ preference between internal and external applicants for non-entry level appointments and external promotions. The intent of my legislation is to ensure that veterans receive appropriate credit and employment opportunities by strengthening the statutory preference provided to veterans under external promotion situations.

Additionally, the bill will make needed technical changes to certain terms in the Act and will modify the method for calculating veterans’ preference for municipal civil service examinations so as to mirror the Commonwealth’s method.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation that will ensure that all veterans receive the employment benefits they have earned through military service, please contact Lisa Seilhammer in my Harrisburg office at 717-783-8783 or through e-mail at lseilham@pahousegop.com