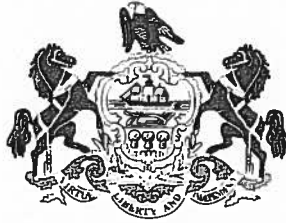


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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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VETERANS AFFAIRS &
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MAJORITY CHAIRMAN


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CAUCUSES:

SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Stephen Barrar 

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation—Veterans' Preference Program

DATE: February 16, 2011

In the near future, I am planning to introduce legislation which will ensure that the Pennsylvania Veterans' Preference Program is properly administered by the State Civil Service Commission so that veterans receive the appropriate credit and hiring preference for civil service employment positions.

In 2008, Auditor General Jack Wagner released a report of a special performance audit conducted on the Veterans' Preference Program administered by the Civil Service Commission. The audit found that the Civil Service Commission's policies and procedures allow the commission to circumvent the hiring of veterans. State agencies were hiring from employment lists that did not have a veteran within the top three highest scores, as required by the program. As a result, various agencies failed to consider eligible veterans for 569 vacancies.

My legislation will add statutory language to the Civil Service Act that would require the Civil Service Commission to fill positions using lists that include eligible veterans seeking employment with the Commonwealth. Furthermore, if a veteran appears on any list and at any time is among the three highest ranking available persons, the appointing authority must select the veteran. In addition, the bill sets forth the basis for disqualification and tightens the rules for interviewing within the statute so as to eliminate the potential misapplication of the law.

I am committed to preserving the Veterans Preference Act. Given the service that these brave men and women have provided to this nation, they deserve nothing less. **This is an important measure that will make certain that all veterans receive the employment benefits they have earned through military service and that will acknowledge the great sacrifice so many have so willingly made for all of us.**

If you wish to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Gina Buffington in my office at 783-3038 or email gbuffing@pahousegop.com. I would appreciate your support and co-sponsorship.
SEB/gb