



APR 04 2011

Senate of Pennsylvania

April 4, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Robert D. Robbins *RDR*

SUBJECT: Invitation for Co-Sponsorship
Civil Service Exemption for Direct Care Employees at Veterans' Homes

In the near future, I will be re-introducing legislation that would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) to alleviate recruitment challenges and delays in hiring for direct care positions in Pennsylvania's six veterans' homes operated by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Specifically, my legislation would exempt these positions in veterans' homes from the Civil Service Act. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is a non-Civil Service agency, yet they currently have 51 Civil Service job titles in the veterans' homes. This legislation would drop that number to 20.

Allowing this change in Civil Service status for direct care positions would enable the facilities to make faster selections of personnel, place them in positions of service to our veterans more quickly, and hire individuals with the most current training and enthusiasm for new careers.

I have included language authorizing the Department of Military Affairs to confer veterans' preference in accordance with State law for those direct care positions touched by this legislation. In addition, there would be no change of status on those hired before the measure's effective date.

This legislation will be the same as Senate Bill 1076, PN 1670 (with amendments) of the last legislative session. Previous cosponsors were: Argall, Baker, Boscola, Brubaker, Corman, Dinniman, Folmer, Fontana, Kitchen, Rafferty, Tartaglione, Tomlinson, Vance, Ward, Waugh, D. White and M. White.

My bill is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

If you wish to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation or have any questions, please contact my office at 787-1322 or email Chris Yniguez at cyniguez@pasen.gov.