

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NO: **HB0339** PN0370
COMMITTEE: Labor Relations
DATE: March 10, 2009

SPONSOR: Rep. Murphy

PROPOSAL/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: House Bill 339 amends the Workforce Development Act to provide members of the PA National Guard and reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces who serve on active duty, as well as their spouses, preference for placement into job training programs for one year after discharge.

EXISTING LAW: The Workforce Development Act, the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L. 949, No. 114), created the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board to unify existing federal and state workforce development programs. The act establishes guidelines for certification of local workforce investment boards, performance measures for job-training programs, and implementation of training programs. There is no specific provision within the Workforce Development Act that provides for veterans' preference for job training programs.

The federal Jobs for Veterans Act, P.L. 107-288 (38 USC 4215 (a)) was passed by Congress in 2002 to provide the following individuals preference in job training programs that are funded, in whole or in part, by federal funds:

1. any veteran;
2. the spouse of any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
3. the spouse of any member of the armed forces who has been listed as missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power;
4. the spouse of any veteran with total service-connected disability; and
5. the spouse of any veteran who died while afflicted with a service connected disability.

ANALYSIS: The legislation amends the Workforce Development Act to provide members of the Pennsylvania National Guard or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, who have been ordered to serve active military duty, preference for placement into job training programs for a period of one year after discharge from active duty. In order to receive such preference, the individual must meet eligibility requirements of the training program and provide appropriate documentation of military service.

The bill also extends preference for placement in job training programs to spouses of active duty PA National Guard and reserve members, providing they also meet program eligibility guidelines and provide documentation of applicable military service dates.

BACKGROUND: This legislation passed the House during the 2007/2008 Session as HB 331 (193-1) and during the 2005/2006 Session as HB 1071 (194-0).

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EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date is 60 days after enactment.

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