

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/9, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies requirement that public employer grant preference to veteran or disabled veteran applying for vacant civil service position or seeking promotion to civil service position with higher maximum salary rate. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public employers' reemployment of persons returning from deployment
- Educating public employers about veterans' preference in hiring and promotion
- Implementation of veterans' preference in hiring by public employers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 408.230 requires public employers to give a preference to veterans or disabled veterans in hiring and promotion decisions related to civil service positions. The statute provides a framework for giving veterans and disabled veterans additional points in scoring during the hiring and promotion process. The preference does not guarantee that a veteran will be hired or promoted.

The 2009 Legislative Assembly amended ORS 408.230, clarifying the definition of "civil service" and removing a provision limiting the veterans' preference to positions for which an application was made within 15 years of discharge or release from service. Some public employers have interpreted the 2009 statutory change to mean they no longer need to give a hiring or salary promotion preference to veterans or disabled veterans because the law does not apply to them.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs requested Senate Bill 277 to clarify that all public employers are subject to the hiring and promotion preference.