

Legislators:

VFW and Blueback Base Comrades (All BCC)

Reference HB-4091 which if enacted would authorize (discretionary) private sector employers to give preference in hiring to veterans and to certain spouses and widows/widowers.

If hiring preference is appropriate for certain spouses in appointment to federal positions and to private sector positions, why not to Oregon state public service positions?

Recommend the Oregon Veterans' Preference statutes be amended to require preference in hiring be given to certain spouses and widows. To accomplish the recommendation, a suggested amendment to the Oregon statutes is attached.

If proposal is too late for consideration during current legislative session, request the proposed amendment be placed on your agenda for next session.

Robert H. Thornhill

Member VFW 1442

and Blueback Base Submariners

Recommended Amendment to ORS 408.225 and 230 Hiring Preference for spouses, widows and widowers

In 2007 the Oregon legislature passed SB-822 which establishes a system of hiring preference for Oregon public service positions similar to that granted veterans for federal executive department positions by the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944.

The goal is jobs. Underlying all that can be done to reintegrate the returning soldier to civilian life is a good civilian job. Likewise, a job is necessary to rehabilitate, for lack a better term, the wounded military family. These preference systems are not going to get a job for all, but every job counts.

Recommend ORS 408.225 and 408.230 be amended as follows. The proposed amendments are patterned after 5 USC 2108 and information gleaned from US Office of Personnel Management: www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.htm. Proposed additions are in bold.

Proposed amendment to ORS 408.225

Amend 408.225 Definitions as follows: Add the following to (1)(b), which defines disabled veteran: **“Disabled veteran” also means spouse of a 100% disabled veteran and the widow or widower of a veteran as defined in (d), below.**

Proposed Amendment to ORS 408.230

1) A public employer shall grant a preference to a veteran, disabled veteran **[spouse of a 100% disabled veteran, widow or widower of veteran]** who successfully completes an initial application screening or an application examination or who successfully completes a civil service test the employer administers to establish eligibility for a vacant civil service position. The employer shall grant preference in the following manner:

Add following as subparagraph (c):

(c) Ten preference points shall be added to the score of spouses of 100% disabled veterans and to the scores of widows or widowers of veterans as prescribed in subparagraph(a), above. When application examination does not result in a score, preference will be accorded spouses of 100% disabled and widows and widowers of veterans in the manner prescribed in subparagraph (b), above. Preference shall be granted only to the un-remarried widow or widower of a veteran and to the spouse continuing to be domiciled with the disabled veteran.

All subsequent paragraphs of ORS 408.230 should be amended to add spouses of 100% disabled and widows and widowers of veterans where the ORS refers to veterans and disabled veterans.