

SB 184 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows job applicants to satisfy the eligibility requirement of separation from military service under honorable conditions, with certification that separation from service is expected within 120 days, in order to claim veterans' preference in public employment. Replaces reference to "preference" points with "percentage" points.

Fiscal: Minimal impact

Revenue: No impact

Senate vote: 26-1 (Nays: Heard)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Eligible veterans receive preference in public employment at state and federal levels, in recognition of the potential economic sacrifices and civilian career delays that may result from their service in the Armed Forces. Potential public employers, within certain guidelines, add "preference" points to veterans and disabled veterans engaged in the public employment hiring process for vacant civil service positions or certain promotions to civil service positions. The preference seeks to restore veterans to competitive positions in public employment and to acknowledge the greater obligation to disabled veterans. Currently, in order for the preference to apply, a veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions, as defined by rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA).

Senate Bill 184 modifies eligibility requirements to claim veterans preference in public employment by allowing otherwise eligible veterans to certify that they expect to be discharged under honorable conditions within 120 days.