



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate guarantees lifetime hiring priority for Oregon veterans *HB 2510 gives veterans employment preference for public sector jobs*

SALEM – The 15-year limit on hiring preferences for military veterans will be removed with legislation passed this morning in the Oregon Senate. HB 2510 guarantees all of Oregon’s veterans a lifetime hiring priority for public sector competitive merit-based recruitment positions.

“Oregon has a responsibility to support our men and women in uniform as they reenter the workforce,” said Deputy Majority Leader Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham), chair of the Senate Health Care and Veterans’ Affairs committee. “By promoting access to public sector jobs, we can extend greater opportunities to veterans for their sacrifice.”

According to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, there are 23,000 veterans currently eligible for the capped 15-year hiring preference. HB 2510 would expand that number to 179,000. Veterans’ preference does not guarantee a job, nor is it an affirmative action-type system, but instead provides points to be used in hiring preferences to ensure that veterans are competitive when applying for civil service positions.

“We have an obligation to do what we can to help give men and women in uniform better access to civilian jobs,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “Our veterans have made many sacrifices defending their country. This time spent outside of the work place should not put them at a disadvantage when they return home. This expansion goes a long way to leveling the playing field and honoring Oregonians’ military service.”

HB 2510 will now go to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

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