

Senate Workforce Development Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Wobbema-Chair

Chairman Wobbema and Senate Workforce Development Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1222

Intent of this bill:

Allow military service members within 120 days of separation eligibility for 5 veteran employment preference points.

Amend ND National Guard member eligibility for veteran employment preference points from “after completion of 20 years” to current and former members.

Need for bill:

Current military service members

- Service members separating from service are seeking civilian employment.
- ND wants to attract these service members back to ND
- Current law requires a copy of discharge paper (DD214) showing character of service.
- DD214 is not issued until date of separation.
- Federal Government allows letter from command 120 prior to discharge in lieu of DD214

National Guard and Reserve

- While serving in a reserve status would normally have a career established by 20 years
- If served in combat zone would already qualify for veterans’ employment preference
- Deserve employment preference while serving as a part time soldier/airman

Outcome

- Attract our service members back to ND workforce.
- Another benefit to joining the ND National Guard and Reserve. Another recruiting tool.
- In line with Federal process and many other states
- In line with the original intent of veteran employment preference- to allow the service member to better compete with their civilian peers
 - Veteran joined service while high school peers entered work force and have more years on their resume.

Fiscal Note:

- None

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA