

By Representative Bennett

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public employment; amending
3 s. 295.07, F.S.; eliminating certain positions
4 from exemption from preferential appointment
5 and retention requirements; requiring vacant
6 select exempt positions in the Department of
7 Veterans' Affairs to be filled with qualified
8 veterans; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Section 295.07, Florida Statutes, is
13 amended to read:

14 295.07 Preference in appointment and retention.--

15 (1) The state and political subdivisions in the state
16 shall give preference in appointment and retention in
17 positions of employment to:

18 (a) Those disabled veterans:

19 1. Who have served on active duty in any branch of the
20 Armed Forces of the United States, have been separated
21 therefrom under honorable conditions, and have established the
22 present existence of a service-connected disability which is
23 compensable under public laws administered by the U.S.
24 Department of Veterans' Affairs, or

25 2. Who are receiving compensation, disability
26 retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws
27 administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and
28 the Department of Defense.

29 (b) The spouse of any person who has a total
30 disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a
31 service-connected disability and who, because of this

1 disability, cannot qualify for employment, and the spouse of
2 any person missing in action, captured in line of duty by a
3 hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of
4 duty by a foreign government or power.

5 (c) A veteran of any war as defined in s. 1.01(14).

6 (d) The unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who
7 died of a service-connected disability.

8 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt
9 rules to ensure that veterans are given special consideration
10 in the employing agency's selection and retention processes.
11 The rules must include the award of point values as
12 articulated in s. 295.08, if applicable, or, where point
13 values are not relevant, must include procedures to ensure
14 that veterans are given special consideration at each step of
15 the employment selection process, unless the sponsoring
16 governmental entity is a party to a collective bargaining
17 agreement, in which case the collective bargaining agreement
18 must comply within 90 days following ratification of a
19 successor collective bargaining agreement or extension of any
20 existing collective bargaining agreement.

21 (3) Preference in employment and retention may be
22 given only to eligible persons who are described in subsection
23 (1) and who are residents of this state.

24 (4) ~~The following positions are exempt from this~~
25 ~~section:~~

26 ~~(a) Those positions that are exempt from the state~~
27 ~~Career Service System under s. 110.205(2); however, all~~
28 ~~positions under the University Support Personnel System of the~~
29 ~~State University System as well as all Career Service System~~
30 ~~positions under the Florida Community College System and the~~
31 ~~School for the Deaf and the Blind are included.~~

