SENATE, No. 2046

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES BEACH
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)
Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Expands eligibility for veterans' civil service preference; creates additional preference benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2020)

AN ACT concerning veterans' civil service preference and supplementing chapter 5 of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. Any individual who does not meet the definition of disabled veteran pursuant to subsection a. of N.J.S.11A:5-1, but does meet the definition of disabled veteran in federal law by 5 U.S.C. s.2108 as may be amended and supplemented and receives a passing score on an open competitive examination shall be entitled to ten additional points above the individual's earned score.

b. Any individual who does not meet the definition of veteran pursuant to subsection b. of N.J.S.11A:5-1 but does meet the definition of veteran in federal law by 5 U.S.C. s.2108 as may be amended and supplemented and receives a passing score on an open competitive examination shall be entitled to five additional points above the individual's earned score.

2. This act shall take effect on July 1 next following enactment, and shall apply to persons taking examinations for appointments after that date.

STATEMENT

This bill would expand eligibility for veterans' hiring preference in the civil service so that individuals who are eligible for veterans' preference in the federal civil service, but are not eligible for preference in the State civil service, would receive additional points above the individual's earned score on State civil service examinations.

To receive the additional points, an individual must meet the eligibility requirements in section 2108 of Title 5, United States Code, as may be amended and supplemented. This means that an honorable or general discharge is necessary. National Guard and Reserve active duty for training purposes would not qualify.

Under the bill, five points would be added to the passing examination score of an individual who is not eligible for State veterans' hiring preference, but served:

-During the period December 7, 1941, to July 1, 1955; or

-For more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; or

-During the Gulf War from August 2, 1990 through January 2, 1992; or

-In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized, including El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Lebanon,

Panama, Somalia, Southwest Asia, Bosnia, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Ten points would be added to the passing examination score of an individual who is not eligible for State disabled veterans' hiring preference, but who served at any time and (1) has a present service-connected disability or (2) is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or a pension from the federal military or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The application of this new benefit to disabled veterans who did not serve in a time of war would apply only if an amendment to the State constitution is approved by the voters to permit such disabled veterans to receive the benefit.