

HCS HB 303 & 239 -- MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

SPONSOR: Day (Davis)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding members of the military, military spouses, and veterans. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to give a bidding preference consisting of a five-point bonus on bids on a state contract for goods and services manufactured, produced, or assembled by a qualified veteran-owned business headquartered in Missouri. The term "veteran-owned business" means a business which is owned at least 51% by one or more veterans with verifiable military service or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock in the business is owned by one or more veterans and the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more veterans;

(2) Establishes the Veteran Workforce Act which requires the Division of Personnel within the Office of Administration to develop rules and regulations ensuring that the state adopts a uniform hiring preference for the appointment and employment of veterans, disabled veterans, and their surviving spouses;

(3) Requires nonmerit system agencies to assess positively the status of veterans, disabled veterans, and surviving spouses of veterans when considering a qualified candidate for an executive branch position and to give additional positive consideration to qualified disabled candidates;

(4) Excludes certain specified offices and positions within state government from the provisions of the act;

(5) Requires the spouse of a disabled veteran to receive the same hiring preference as a veteran or surviving spouse if the veteran is not employed in state service and the disability renders him or her unqualified to enter state service;

(6) Requires any person who has been honorably discharged from the United States armed forces to receive the appropriate credit in any examination for training or experience gained in the service if the training or experience is related to the duties of the class of positions for which the examination is given;

(7) Authorizes the Adjutant General to present a Missouri National Guard Overseas Training Ribbon to individual members of

the Missouri National Guard who have participated in training outside the United States for 10 or more cumulative days and a Missouri National Guard State Partnership Program Ribbon to a member of the Missouri National Guard who has participated on a state partnership program mission to a country with which Missouri has a federally recognized partnership;

(8) Authorizes the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Adjutant General, to present the Order of the Minuteman Award to military or civilian individual who has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious service or achievement to the state or to the Missouri National Guard;

(9) Specifies that a resident who is a member of the Missouri National Guard or the armed forces of the United States who is serving on active duty and fails to renew his or her driver's license will be given 90 days after completing the military service and re-establishing residence within the state to renew his or her license without being required to take the complete examination. Currently, these individuals are not required to take a complete examination if they renew within 60 days after completing the military service. A person discharged from the armed forces of the United States will have six months from the date of discharge or within 90 days after re-establishment of residence within the state, whichever is sooner, to renew an expired driver's license without examination. A Missouri resident on active military duty or any dependent, 21 years of age or older, residing outside of the state or the United States may renew his or her driver's license by mail;

(10) Authorizes the issuance of a military medallion, medal, and certificate to any veteran who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam War as a member of the Missouri National Guard regardless of whether the veteran is or ever was a legal Missouri resident; and

(11) Requires any state agency or board that regulates an occupation or profession to establish criteria for the issuance of a temporary courtesy license to a nonresident spouse of an active duty member of the military who is stationed in Missouri allowing him or her to lawfully practice his or her occupation or profession in this state. An applicant for a courtesy license must hold a current license or certificate from another state, district, or United States territory whose licensing requirements are equivalent to those established by Missouri law for that occupation or profession and must have been engaged in the active practice of the occupation or profession for at least two of the past five years preceding the date of his or her application. An applicant cannot have committed an act that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a

license or certificate under Missouri law and cannot have been disciplined by a licensing or credentialing entity or be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review, or disciplinary proceeding. The appropriate board or agency is authorized to pay for and conduct a criminal background check on an applicant. An applicant must pay any appropriate required fees, and a temporary courtesy license or certificate will be valid for 180 days and may be extended at the discretion of the applicable regulatory board or agency for another 180 days. These provisions will not apply to the practice of law or the regulation of attorneys.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of Less than \$100,000 in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of House Bill 303 say that the bill will help military families by relieving some of the stress involved in relocating and might encourage members of the military to stay in Missouri.

Supporters of House Bill 239 say that the bill enhances the hiring process in the state. Veterans provide leadership and bring special skills to a job.

Testifying for HB 303 were Representative Day; Division of Professional Registration, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; Johnson County Economic Development Corporation; and University of Central Missouri.

Testifying for HB 239 were Representative Kander; Dewey Riehn, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations; and Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.