

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2005 SESSION

## CHAPTER 413

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2903 and 15.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, relating to hiring preference for veterans.*

[H 2428]

Approved March 21, 2005

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 2.2-2903 and 15.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-2903. Grade or rating increase and other preferences for veterans.

A. In a manner consistent with federal and state law, if any veteran applies for employment with the Commonwealth that is based on the passing of any written examination, the veteran's grade or rating on such examination shall be increased by five percent. However, if the veteran has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration, his grade or rating shall be increased by ~~ten~~ 10 percent on such written examination. Such increases shall apply only if the veteran passes such examination.

B. In a manner consistent with federal and state law, if any veteran applies for employment with the Commonwealth that is not based on the passing of any examination, such veteran's military service shall be taken into consideration by the Commonwealth during the selection process, provided that such veteran meets all of the knowledge, skill, and ability requirements for the available position. *Additional consideration shall also be given to veterans who have a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration.*

C. If any veteran is denied employment with the Commonwealth, he shall be entitled, to the extent permitted by law, to request and inspect information regarding the reasons for such denial.

D. For purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who has received an honorable discharge and has (i) provided more than 180 consecutive days of full-time, active-duty service in the armed forces of the United States or reserve components thereof, including the National Guard, or (ii) has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Affairs.

§ 15.2-1509. Preferences for veterans in local government employment.

Consistent with the requirements and obligations to protected classes under federal or state law, any locality ~~may~~ shall take into consideration or give preference to an individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States in its employment *hiring* policies and practices, *provided that such veteran meets all of the knowledge, skills and eligibility requirements for the available position.* Additional consideration ~~may~~ shall also be given to veterans who have a service connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration. "Veterans" as used in this section refers to the same class as included in § 2.2-2903 with regard to the state service.