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## SENATE BILL NO. 714

Offered January 8, 1997

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.1-112 and 15.1-7.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to preference for veterans for employment with the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.*

Patron—Marye

Referred to the Committee on General Laws

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

**1. That §§ 2.1-112 and 15.1-7.5 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.1-112. Grade or rating increase and other preferences for veterans.

A. In the event a person who has served in the armed forces of the United States in World War I, World War II, Korean War or Vietnam War, having an honorable discharge, is an applicant for a position in the state service which is filled after an examination given by the Merit System Council under the merit system plan applicable to personnel employed by the Virginia Employment Commission, the state and local boards of public welfare, the State Board of Health, and the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped, or any other state agency whose employees are so examined, a manner consistent with federal and state law, if any veteran applies for employment with the Commonwealth which is based on the passing of any examination, the veteran's grade or rating of the applicant on such examination shall be increased by five percent. If such applicant shall have *However, if the veteran has a service connected service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration, his grade or rating shall be increased by ten percent. Such additions increase shall apply only be made if any such applicant the veteran passes such the examination.*

B. In the event that *In a manner consistent with federal and state law, if any person mentioned in subsection A* veteran applies for employment with any agency of the Commonwealth where examinations are not required of the applicants which is not based on the passing of any examination, such person shall be assured that his veteran's service with the armed forces shall be taken into consideration by the agency *Commonwealth* during the selection process, provided that such person veteran meets all of the knowledge, skill, and ability requirements for the *vacancy available position*. Each agency of the Commonwealth shall take affirmative action consistent with its obligations for protected classes.

C. If any veteran is denied employment with the Commonwealth, he shall be provided, within thirty days of the denial, a written statement of the reasons upon which the denial is based.

D. For purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who has (i) provided at least 180 consecutive days of full-time, active-duty service in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or reserve components thereof, including the National Guard, or (ii) has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration and (iii) received an honorable discharge.

§ 15.1-7.5. Preferences for veterans in local government employment.

Consistent with the requirements and obligations to protected classes under A. *In a manner consistent with federal or and state law, if any veteran applies for employment with any county, city, or town may 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 policies and practices. Additional consideration may 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 § 2.1-112 with regard to the state service which is based on the passing of any examination, the veteran's grade or rating on such examination shall be increased by five percent. However, if such veteran has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration, his grade or rating shall be increased by ten percent. Such increase shall apply only if the veteran passes the examination.*

B. In a manner consistent with federal and state law, if any veteran applies for employment with any county, city or town which is not based on the passing of any examination, such veteran's service with the armed forces shall be taken into consideration by such county, city or town during the selection process, provided that such veteran meets all of the knowledge, skill, and ability requirements for the available position.

C. If any veteran is denied employment with any county, city, or town, he shall be provided, within thirty days of the denial, a written statement of the reasons upon which the denial is based.

D. For purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who has (i) provided at least 180

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**60** *consecutive days of full-time, active-duty service in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines,*  
**61** *Coast Guard, or reserve components thereof, including the National Guard, or (ii) has a*  
**62** *service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Veterans Administration and (iii) received*  
**63** *an honorable discharge.*