

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 241

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a state employment preference for certain individuals who reside with veterans with a disability.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 657.002, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 657.002. INDIVIDUALS QUALIFIED FOR MILITARY EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE. The following individuals qualify for a military employment preference:

(1) a veteran, including a veteran with a disability;

(2) a veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried;

(3) an orphan of a veteran if the veteran was killed while on active duty;

(4) the spouse of a member of the United States armed forces or Texas National Guard serving on active duty; ~~and~~

(5) the spouse of a veteran if the spouse is the primary source of income for the household and the veteran has a total disability rating based either on having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of at least 70 percent or on individual unemployability; and

(6) an individual who resides in a household with a veteran if the individual is the primary source of income for the household and the veteran:

1 (A) has a total disability rating based either on
2 having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of
3 100 percent or on individual unemployability; and

4 (B) is receiving Supplemental Security Income
5 (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq. or Social
6 Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits under 42 U.S.C.
7 Section 401 et seq.

8 SECTION 2. Section 657.003(b), Government Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (b) A state agency shall provide to an individual entitled
11 to a military employment preference for employment or appointment
12 over other applicants for the same position who do not have a
13 greater qualification a military employment preference, in the
14 following order of priority:

- 15 (1) a veteran with a disability;
16 (2) a veteran;
17 (3) a spouse described by Section 657.002(4) or (5);
18 (4) a veteran's surviving spouse who has not
19 remarried; ~~and~~

20 (5) an orphan of a veteran if the veteran was killed
21 while on active duty; and

22 (6) an individual who resides with a veteran with a
23 disability as described by Section 657.002(6) if the individual is
24 the primary source of income for the veteran's household.

25 SECTION 3. Section 657.005(b), Government Code, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 (b) An applicant who is a veteran with a disability, a

1 spouse of a veteran as described by Section 657.002(5), or an
2 individual who resides with a veteran with a disability as
3 described by Section 657.002(6) if the individual is the primary
4 source of income for the veteran's household, shall furnish the
5 official records to the individual whose duty is to fill the
6 position.

7 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
8 an open position with a state agency for which the state agency
9 begins accepting applications on or after the effective date of
10 this Act. An open position with a state agency for which the state
11 agency begins accepting applications before the effective date of
12 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the state
13 agency began accepting applications, and the former law is
14 continued in effect for that purpose.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.