

HB 1257 -- HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules-Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill allows private, nonpublic employers to grant preference to a veteran, the spouse of a disabled veteran with a service-connected disability, or a surviving spouse of a deceased veteran when hiring and promoting employees.

PROPOSERS: Currently the federal and state government can give preferential treatment to veterans. This bill just makes it clear that private businesses can do the same. Supporters say that some businesses want to give a hiring preference to veterans but are worried about violating employment laws. This bill does not require private businesses to do anything, it just clarifies that they can legally give a preference to veterans should they want to.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer; Thomas Goodin, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations; Thomas Mundell, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.