

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5074

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As Passed Senate, February 4, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to veterans' scoring criteria.

**Brief Description:** Modifying the veterans' scoring criteria in competitive examinations.

**Sponsors:** Senators Bailey, Conway, Benton and Hobbs; by request of Department of Enterprise Services.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Security (Note: Senate Resolution 8609 adopted January 27, 2015, renamed the Committee on Government Operations & State Security to Committee on Government Operations & Security): 1/19/15, 1/27/15 [DP].  
Passed Senate: 2/04/15, 49-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & SECURITY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Pearson, Vice Chair; Liias, Ranking Minority Member; Habib and McCoy.

**Staff:** Samuel Brown (786-7470)

**Background:** Competitive examinations for public employment or at private companies or agencies contracting with the state are on a 100-point scale. An honorably discharged veteran receives an added percentage to their score based on the veteran's status. A veteran who served during a period of war or armed conflict and does not receive military retirement is eligible for a 10 percent increase. A veteran who did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict or who served during a period of war or armed conflict, but is receiving military retirement, is eligible for a 5 percent increase. A veteran who is called to active military service from employment with the state is eligible for a 5 percent increase until the first promotion.

**Summary of Bill:** The percentage benefit for veterans applying for public employment is converted to a point benefit. A veteran who served during a period of war or armed conflict and does not receive military retirement is eligible for a ten-point increase. A veteran who did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict or who served during a period of war or armed conflict, but is receiving military retirement, is eligible for a five-point increase. A

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veteran who is called to active military service from employment with the state is eligible for a five-point increase until the veteran's first promotion.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This is a good common-sense bill that simplifies things by taking away some of the risk in manual calculation. The bill encourages veteran employment. The current percentage-based method is inefficient and increases likelihood of error. The federal government and most other states use a points-based system.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Bailey, prime sponsor; Arlen Harris, Dept. of Enterprise Services.