

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN PARISH

Alaska State Legislature / Juneau, Alaska District 34



SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 165

State Personnel Act: Veterans

Qualified veterans can miss job opportunities because they lack a civilian qualifying requirement, even though he or she has an abundance of experience. A 2012 survey finds that two-thirds of veterans name finding a job as the greatest challenge in transition from military to civilian life.

House Bill 165 would allow a veteran who could provide documented military experience to substitute that experience for published minimum qualifications for state classified positions.

Many states have similar laws that allow veterans to be considered for positions if the veteran can reasonably perform the requirements of the position. Pennsylvania will consider a 'soldier' for a position even if the veteran doesn't meet other requirements. Five states; Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Texas require hiring managers to interview all veterans applying for public employment.

House Bill 165 would direct the Department of Administration to implement a procedure through the Alaska Personnel Act to allow an applicant who is a veteran, former prisoner of war, or member of the national guard under AS 39.25.159 to substitute military work experience or training for nonmilitary work experience or training requirements of a state classified position if the military experience or training meets or exceeds the position requirements.