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DIGEST

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Futrell

HB No. 261

**Abstract:** Provides eligibility for the five-point preference for original appointment for civil service and state police service employment to veterans who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces and who served for at least 90 days continuous service on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001.

Present constitution provides that each person who served honorably in the armed forces of the U.S. during a war declared by congress, or during a peacetime campaign or expedition for which campaign badges are authorized, or during war period dates or dates of armed conflicts as provided by state law enacted by 2/3 of the elected members of each house of the legislature is eligible to receive the five-point preference for original appointment by the state civil service department, the city of New Orleans civil service department (the civil service department of each city having a population over 400,000), and civil service departments of cities and parishes which elect to be governed by the provisions of Part I of Art. X of the constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment additionally makes those persons who served honorably in the armed forces of the U.S. for no less than 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001, for reasons other than training, eligible for the five-point preference.

Present constitution also provides that the director of the state police service shall accord a five-point preference in original appointment to each person honorably discharged, or discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the U.S. for service during the Vietnam Era from July 1, 1958 through May 7, 1975 (except that the period of July 1, 1958 through August 4, 1964, shall apply only to those who served in the Vietnam Theater) or in a peacetime campaign or expedition for which campaign badges are authorized.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides also that each person honorably discharged from the armed forces of the U.S. who served during a war declared by congress or for no less than 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001, for reasons other than training, or during any war period dates or dates of armed conflicts as provided by state law enacted by a 2/3 vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature is eligible to receive the five-point preference for original appointment in the state police service.

Present constitution (for state and city civil service in Art. X, § 1 and state police service) also grants a 10-point preference in original appointment to each honorably discharged veteran who served either in peace or in war and who has one or more service-connected disabilities, to the spouse of a veteran whose physical condition precludes his or her appointment to the state police service; to the unremarried widow of each deceased veteran who served in a war period as specified above; to the unremarried widowed parent of a veteran who died or suffered total and permanent disability in war or peacetime service; or to the divorced or separated parents of such a veteran. Provides that if the 10-point preference is not used by the veteran, either because of the veteran's physical or mental incapacity which precludes his or her appointment to a civil service job in his or her usual line of work or because of his death, then the preference shall be available to his or her spouse, unremarried widow, or eligible parents in such order. Only one 10-point preference is allowed. Present constitution provides that any such preference may be given only to a person who has attained at least the minimum score required on each test and who has received at least the minimum rating required for eligibility.

Proposed constitutional amendment otherwise retains present constitution.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election on November 2, 2004.

(Amends Const. Art. X, §§10(A)(2) and 48(A)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Changes proposed provision relative to service required to receive the five-point preference from at least 180 days after Dec. 31, 1991 to at least 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001, for reasons other than training.
2. Retains language from the present constitution relative to the state police service regarding an honorable discharge or a discharge under honorable conditions and specific references to certain dates in the Vietnam Era.