

**ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB588**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday March 06, 2013  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Watermeier  
**One Liner:** Change veteran employment preference provisions and name the act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Avery, Bloomfield, Karpisek, Murante, Price, Scheer, Wallman  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:** 1 Senator Lautenbaugh

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<b>Proponents:</b> Senator Dan Watermeier Bo Botelho Nick Bussey Greg Holloway Ryan McIntosh Jonathan Terry	<b>Representing:</b> Introducer Department of Administrative Services Self Disabled American Veterans National Guard Association of Nebraska Self
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<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**  
LB 588 creates the Veterans Preference Act.

Under the bill, veterans will be given a preference for initial employment in positions with the state or its governmental subdivisions, if the veteran is competent to perform such services. When a veteran applies for a position, the person who fills the position will, if the applicant is a veteran and competent to perform the duties, consider the veteran for appointment.

Within 30 days of filling a position, veterans who have applied and not hired will be notified that they have not been hired.

A veterans preference is not available for key employees, positions held by a patient, inmate or student or positions that are temporary or casual.

All notices of open positions of employment available for veterans preference and all applications will state that the position is subject to a veterans preference, how the preference works, and how veterans may take advance of the preference. A veteran desiring to use the preference will provide a copy of the veteran's Defense Department Form 214 which qualifies the veteran for the preference.

The act becomes operative on January 1, 2014.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The amendment strikes all of the original sections of the bill and replaces it with the following provisions:

Veterans who obtain a passing score on all parts of an examination or numerical scoring will have 5% added to their passing score if a claim for the preference is made on the application. This language is based on the current law of a 5% preference on tests but adds the language regarding "numerical scoring."

When no examination or numerical scoring is used, the preference will be given to a qualifying veteran if two or more equally qualified candidates are being considered for the position.

All notices of positions of employment available for veterans preference will state the position is subject to the preference.

A veteran desiring to use the preference will provide the hiring authority with a copy of the veteran's Defense Department Form 214.

The amendment also allows the spouse of a veteran who has a 100% permanent disability to claim the preference. The spouse of a veteran will provide the hiring authority with a copy of the veteran's DD214 form, the veteran's disability verification, and proof of marriage.

Within 30 days after filling a position, veterans who have applied and are not hired will be notified that they have not been hired. The notice will also advise the veteran of any administrative appeal available.

This act becomes operative on January 1, 2014.

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Bill Avery, Chairperson