

Office of the Speaker Pro Tem
North Carolina
House of Representatives

300 N. Salisbury St., Room 612, Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 733-2962 – Paul.Stam@ncleg.net

Representative
Paul Stam



PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- March 29, 2016 -

Benefits, Protections & Preferences for Active Military, Veterans, and/or Disabled Veterans

Liberal groups have been circulating the claim that SL 2016-3, *Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act*, discriminates against Veterans. Here is a list of benefits, protections, or preferences that the State offers for active military and veterans.

- **G.S. 17C-10.1** recognizes the experience of military service members for law enforcement certification.
- **G.S. 20-7(f) (3b)** modifies drivers license renewal provisions for the Armed Forces and reserve components.
- **G.S. 20-7 (q) and (q1)** provides a designation on drivers license for active duty and veteran military.
- **G.S. 20-37.13(c1) and (c2)** waives some qualifications for a commercial drivers license for military.
- **G.S. 93B-15.1** requires an occupational licensing board to issue a license to a military trained applicant if the applicant demonstrates military occupational specialty certification and experience in the field and passes a proficiency examination.
- **G.S. 95-28.4** A private, nonpublic employer may provide a preference to a veteran for employment. Spouses of honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected permanent and total disability may be preferred for employment. Granting this preference is not a violation of equal employment opportunity law.
- **G.S. 105-277.1C** provides for a disabled veteran property tax homestead exclusion.
- **G.S. 113-296** Disabled veteran sportsmen may participate in the disabled sportsman program.
- **G.S. 113-174.2(c)(6)** grants a lifetime fishing licenses for resident disabled veterans.
- **G.S. 116-143.3A** waives the 12-month residency requirement for veterans for tuition.
- **G.S. 116-209.54(b)(6)** extends eligibility for North Carolina National Guard tuition assistance to a program granting graduate certificates.
- **G.S. 122C-115.4** requires the behavioral health needs of members of the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces of the US, veterans and their family members to be met
- **Chapter 126, Article 13** provides Veterans preference for employment with the State.
- **G.S. 127A-202.1** provides employment protections to members of the North Carolina National Guard and of other states.
- **Chapter 127B, Article 2** pertains to *Discrimination Against Military Personnel* (**G.S. 127B-11** private, **G.S. 127B-12** public, **G.S. 127B-14** employer).
- **G.S. 128-15** provides employment preference for veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses.
- **Chapter 143B, Article 14, Part 2** provides scholarships for children of certain veterans.
- **Chapter 143B, Article 14, Part 3** creates and appoints the Governor's jobs for veterans committee
- **Chapter 143B, Article 14, Part 9** provides priority in employment assistance for veterans.
- **SL 2013-268** awards credit for prior work experience of veterans for the State Salary Schedules.

Another resource is the **2015 NC4VETS Guide**: <http://www.nc4vets.com/blog/resource-guide>. For further information, contact the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 844.624.8387.

Additional Budget Support For Veterans:

These allocations are located in the 2015 Conference Committee Report available [HERE](#).

Section F49 Resident Tuition for Certain Non-Resident Veterans

Provides funds to offset a reduction in tuition receipts as a result of granting certain non-resident veterans resident status for tuition purposes. The federal Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 requires public institutions of higher education to charge certain non-resident veterans no more than the resident tuition and fee rates or risk losing approval to receive federal educational benefits. This item funds the expected costs of compliance with that Act for the Community College System.

\$2,000,000 Recurring Funds (15-16)

\$2,000,000 Recurring Funds (16-17)

Section F69 Resident Tuition for Certain Non-Resident Veterans

Provides funds to offset a reduction in tuition receipts as a result of granting certain non-resident veterans resident status for tuition purposes. The federal Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 requires public institutions of higher education to charge certain non-resident veterans no more than the resident tuition and fee rates or risk losing approval to receive federal educational benefits. This item funds the expected costs of compliance with that Act for the UNC System.

\$9,300,762 Recurring Funds (15-16)

\$9,300,762 Recurring Funds (16-17)

Federal Law that prohibits discrimination against veterans

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against veterans, permits option of administrative enforcement or civil action in federal or state court, has NO statute of limitations and assigns burden of proof to employer to disprove discrimination.

###