

State of Arkansas  
89th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/13/13  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1517

By: Representative Hammer  
By: Senator J. English

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO EXTEND VETERANS PREFERENCE IN HIRING TO  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO CLARIFY THE VETERANS PREFERENCE  
LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO EXTEND VETERANS PREFERENCE IN HIRING  
TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CLARIFY THE  
VETERANS PREFERENCE LAW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-3-302(c), concerning veterans preference, is amended to read as follows:

(c) ~~In every department or~~ A state agency ~~of state government or~~ institution of higher education ~~with employee positions~~ subject to the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, § 21-5-201 et seq., or a school district as defined under § 6-20-1903, shall provide a veterans preference in interviewing and hiring to an applicant if the applicant:

(1) Indicates on the employment application that he or she is:

(A) a A veteran; who voluntarily submits official proof of his or her status as a veteran,

(B) A disabled veteran; or

(C) a The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran who remains is unmarried at the time the preference is sought of application for employment and remains unmarried until the decision to hire is made; and who is a citizen and resident of this state shall be entitled to employment



~~preference in a position over other applicants after meeting substantially equal qualifications.~~

(2) Is a citizen and resident of this state; and

(3) Meets substantially equal qualifications of other applicants.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-3-302(h), concerning veterans preference, is amended to read as follows:

(h) ~~Nothing in this~~ This section shall does not be construed to apply to the position of elective an elected official or political appointees appointee in: any department,

(1) A state agency, or institution of higher education subject to the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, § 21-5-201 et seq.;

(2) A school district as defined under § 6-20-1903; or

(3) to any The administrative assistant or secretary of an elected official or political appointee person holding a strictly confidential administrative or secretarial position in relation to the appointing officer.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 21-3-303(b), concerning failure to hire a disabled veteran, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The written reason shall become a part of the employment application records of the department, state agency, or institution of higher education subject to the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, § 21-5-201 et seq., or a school district as defined under § 6-20-1903, and be retained for the same period of time as all other employment applications as established by law or agency policy.

*/s/Hammer*

**APPROVED: 03/19/2013**