

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2626

As Amended by the House Committee on
Veterans and Military

Brief*

HB 2626, as amended, would update the veteran's preference in government employment program to include certain Kansas National Guard and U.S. military reserve members and eligible spouses of military servicemembers.

Exclusions

The bill would exclude any current member of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard or a current member of a unit of the reserve forces of the U.S. military with the pay grade of 04 or higher. This exclusion would not apply to eligible spouses.

Expanded Eligibility

The bill would define "servicemember" and "eligible spouse," both of whom would be eligible to participate in the program.

Servicemember

A servicemember would mean an individual who resides and is stationed in Kansas and is:

- A current member in good standing of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard; or

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

- A current member of a unit of the reserve forces of the United States military.

Spouse

“Eligible spouse” would mean an individual who is married to an individual who:

- Resides in and is stationed in Kansas;
- Is an active duty member of the U.S. military;
- A current member in good standing of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard; or
- A current member of a unit of the reserve forces of the United States military.

Application Process

The bill would require a servicemember who qualifies for veteran’s preference and desires to use such preference to provide the hiring authority with:

- Proof of Kansas residency;
- A certificate signed by the unit commander that such servicemember is:
 - A current member in good standing of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard; or
 - A current member of a unit of the reserve forces of the U.S. military.

The bill would require an eligible spouse who wishes to use such preference to provide the hiring authority with:

- Proof of residency in Kansas; and
- Proof of marriage to an eligible servicemember.

Hiring Notification

The bill would also remove the requirement to notify applicants by certified mail or personal service that the applicant is not being hired.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of a representative of the Adjutant General's Department.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Adjutant General and Department of Defense. The proponents generally stated the bill would expand veteran's preference for public sector jobs to National Guard members who have not been activated yet. The bill would also expand the preference to spouses of all military members in the state. It was noted that the bill follows Department of Defense policy. It was also requested the bill be amended to remove the signed certificate requirement for spouses.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement that an eligible spouse provide a certificate signed by a unit commander that the spouse was married to a servicemember who is active duty, current member in good standing of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard, or current member of the reserve forces of the U.S. military.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of Personnel

Services, within the Department of Administration, states that it currently administers the veterans preference program. Any required adjustments to job postings or new documents to establish eligibility would not have a fiscal effect. However, the removal of notification by certified mail for unsuccessful applicants would result in postage savings for any state agency that has unsuccessful veterans preference applicants. The fiscal savings for agencies cannot be estimated.

The Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Office of Veterans Services both state that the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Veteran's preference; National Guard; spouses