



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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as of June 11, 2013

DRAFT SJR 24 Study Plan

Prepared by Pat Murdo, Committee Staff
For June 25, 2013, meeting

Background

Senate Joint Resolution No. 24 identifies three tasks for the study of how military training may apply to professional and occupational licensing and other civilian job certification requirements. These are:

1. monitor the work done by professional and occupational licensing boards to determine how these boards are implementing House Bill No. 259 and Senate Bill No. 183 regarding accepting military skills in place of comparable licensing requirements;
2. identify and examine other certifications or licensing for civilian or state or local government jobs for which military training and skills may be acceptable equivalents; and
3. identify statutes, if any, that may need to be amended to allow reciprocity for military training.

Proposed Activities

The Economic Affairs Committee may decide on minimal involvement in this study or a more extensive involvement. Minimal involvement entails development of a white paper/final report with perhaps updates from professional and occupational licensing boards throughout the interim regarding implementation of the HB 259 and SB 183 bills that require licensing boards to recognize military training as meeting some experience or training requirements.

A more robust exploration of SJR 24 would include presentations along with white papers as described below:

Presentation 1:

At an early EAIC meeting various stakeholders, including employers, representatives of the Job Service, and of the Department of Military Affairs (including military reserve, National Guard, veterans organizations and active military) would be asked to provide input on areas where reciprocity may be necessary to ease a soldier's transition from military to civilian workforce in relation to job skills and training. This meeting would feature recommendations from stakeholders, asked specifically to comment on civilian jobs for which licensure or certification may be compatible with military jobs. This segment would include a review of the implementation of HB 508 regarding the commercial drivers' license test being waived for members of the military with experience in driving commercial vehicles.

White Paper (or presentation?)

The committee also would be presented with a white paper listing work being done by professional and occupational licensing boards regarding reciprocity between licensing requirements and military training. If the committee wanted a presentation, this would involve

relevant licensing boards with responses from the Department of Military Affairs.

Other potential presentations

- Those associated with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, a program described as a Department of Defense effort "to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle" would be given an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns at one meeting. (see <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/about.html>.)
- A representative of the U.S. military would be asked to address national efforts to incorporate military training and reciprocity in educational fields.

White Paper/Final Report

A final white paper and report would include a list of Montana statutes regarding licensure or certification, employment-related concerns, and any other training to determine whether amendments are needed to allow reciprocity for military training. The committee could determine whether committee-requested legislation is necessary and, if so, have public comment at a meeting to determine if there are unintended consequences to the proposed changes.