



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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as of Aug. 7, 2013

Revised DRAFT SJR 24 Study Plan

Prepared by Pat Murdo, Committee Staff
For the Aug. 21, 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 asked at its June 2013 meeting for a white paper regarding various certifications or licensing in the state that may be able to incorporate military training as a substitute for other required experience. The white paper would include reviews of:

- what the professional and occupational licensing boards are doing 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; and
- the implementation of HB 508 regarding the commercial drivers' license test being waived for members of the military with experience in driving commercial vehicles.

The white paper, to be presented at the March 2014 Committee meeting, may generate a request for further presentations later in the interim. These might include:

- 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), may be asked to provide input on areas where reciprocity may be necessary to ease a soldier's transition from the military to the civilian workforce in relation to job skills and training.
- 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" may be given an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns. (see <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/about.html>.)
- A representative of the U.S. military may be asked to address national efforts to incorporate military training and reciprocity in educational fields.

Final Report

A final report would incorporate the white paper only if additional presentations are added to the study. Otherwise, the white paper would serve as the final report and would list any Montana statutes that may need to be changed to allow reciprocity for military training. If the committee determined a need for legislation, there would be a public comment period at the September 2014 meeting.