

HB 2231 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/20, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts uniformed overseas voluntary service and domestic voluntary service in response to a declaration of emergency or disaster by local, state or federal government, from five year limit calculations on eligibility for reemployment rights. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 55; Excused, 4--Lively, Morgan, Smith G, Wallan

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns for addressing similar five-year limit calculations on eligibility for reemployment rights at the federal level
- Different characterizations of what is considered to be "voluntary" service

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, a member of the uniformed service is provided the right to return to their civilian job without penalty or discrimination as long as their cumulative voluntary military service does not exceed five years. Involuntary call ups do not count toward the five-year limit on reemployment rights. However, reservists may find that their orders state their service was voluntary regardless of whether they volunteered or not for a deployment overseas or for a domestic emergency or disaster.

House Bill 2231 exempts time spent in voluntary service overseas and domestic voluntary service responding to a declared emergency or disaster from the five-year limit on reemployment rights.