



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 78

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 21

Senate, March 21, 2016

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT'S NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [No] Subject to federal law or regulation governing membership in
4 the National Guard, no person shall be denied membership in the
5 armed forces of the state, nor be discriminated against in the matter of
6 promotion therein, on account of [his race, creed or color] such
7 person's religion, national origin, color, race, sex, gender identity or
8 expression or sexual orientation. No units of such organizations shall
9 be formed, and no separate types of duties or separate
10 accommodations shall be assigned, in such a manner as to result in the
11 segregation of members thereof on account of [race, creed or color]
12 religion, national origin, color, race, sex, gender identity or expression
13 or sexual orientation, except that accommodations may be assigned
14 consistent with any federal military regulation or service policy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-59

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

There is no fiscal impact associated with expanding the protected classes in regards to the Military Departments nondiscrimination laws.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 21****AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT'S NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill broadens the scope of the law barring discrimination in the state's armed forces to more closely align with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities' antidiscrimination laws and federal policies relating to the armed forces.

Current law prohibits denying membership or promotion in the state's armed forces based on race, creed, or color. The bill eliminates creed and adds religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. It subjects the prohibitions to federal laws or regulations governing membership in the National Guard.

Similarly, current law prohibits the state's armed forces from forming units or assigning duties or accommodations that result in segregation based on race, creed, or color. The bill eliminates creed and adds religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, except that accommodations may be assigned consistent with any federal military regulation and service policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

sSB 197, reported favorably by the Veterans Committee, prohibits discrimination, on the basis of a veteran's status, in employment, public accommodations, and several other laws over which the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities has jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)