

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 48

By: Helton

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution calling upon the Governor to ensure the appointment of representatives of veterans' advocacy groups to the Oklahoma Workforce Development Board and the local workforce boards of this state; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220) is the first substantial change to this country's employment and training delivery system in fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, the new legislation requires the governor of each state to establish a state workforce development board; and

WHEREAS, the state workforce development board is responsible for establishing local workforce areas and local workforce boards to implement Workforce Investment Act programs; and

WHEREAS, in enacting P.L. 105-220, Congress clearly meant to emphasize veteran programs because they, along with services to unemployment recipients and public access to a free labor exchange, are the only current program areas that cannot be waived under the Workforce Investment Act; and

WHEREAS, because the decentralization of the traditional service delivery system has the potential of maintaining or improving veteran services at the state and local levels it also has the potential of allowing state and local governments to dilute both veteran priority of service and the quality of veteran services; and

WHEREAS, another provision of the Workforce Investment Act gives welfare recipients priority of services when funding is limited; and

WHEREAS, although The American Legion believes that welfare recipients are a suitable Workforce Investment Act target group, The American Legion finds that giving welfare recipients priority displaces the long-standing priority that veterans have received in federally-funded employment programs based on their service to the country; and

WHEREAS, the only way to protect and enhance priority of service and the quality of services guaranteed to veterans by Title 38 of the United States Code is to ensure that members of veterans' advocacy groups are appointed to all state and local workforce boards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. That the Governor of the State of Oklahoma ensure the appointment of representatives of veterans' advocacy groups to the Oklahoma Workforce Development Board and all local workforce boards of this state.

SECTION 2. That the Secretary of State distribute copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Chair of the Oklahoma Workforce Development Board, and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

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