**Section 620.130 Veterans' Preference**

a) For the granting of appropriate preference in entrance examinations to qualified persons who have been members of the armed forces of the United States or to unqualified persons who, while citizens of the United States, were members of the armed forces of allies of the United States in time of hostilities with a foreign country, and to certain other persons as set forth in this Section.

1) "Time of hostilities with a foreign country," means any period of time in the past, present, or future during which a declaration of war by the United States Congress has been or is in effect or during which an emergency condition has been or is in effect that is recognized by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order and in which the armed forces expenditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential executive order.

2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard. Service in the Merchant Marines that constitutes active duty under 38 U.S.C. 106 shall also be considered service in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of this Section.

b) The preference granted under this Section shall be in the form of points added to the final grades of the persons if they otherwise qualify and are entitled to appear on the list of those eligible for appointments.

c) A veteran is qualified for a preference of 10 points if the veteran currently holds proof of a service connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or an allied country or if the veteran is a recipient of the Purple Heart.

d) A veteran who has served during a time of hostilities with a foreign country is qualified for a preference of 5 points if the veteran served under one or more of the following conditions:

1) The veteran served a total of at least 6 months;

2) The veteran served for the duration of hostilities regardless of the length of engagement;

3) The veteran was discharged on the basis of hardship; or

4) The veteran was released from active duty because of a service connected disability and was discharged under honorable conditions.

e) A person not eligible for a preference under subsection (c) or (d) above is qualified for a preference of 3 points if the person has served in the armed forces of the United States, the Illinois National Guard, or any reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and the person:

1) service for at least 6 months and has been discharged under honorable conditions;

2) has been discharged on the ground of hardship; or

3) was released from active duty because of the service connected disability.

 An active member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States is eligible for the preference if the member meets the service requirements of this subsection.

f) The rank order of persons entitled to a preference on eligible lists shall be determined on the basis of their augmented ratings. When the Director establishes eligible lists on the basis of category ratings such as "superior", "excellent", "well qualified", and "qualified", the veteran eligible in each such category shall be preferred for appointment before the non-veteran eligibles in the same category.

g) Employees in positions covered by this Code who, while in good standing, leave to engage in military service during a period of hostility, shall be given credit for seniority purposes for time served in the armed forces.

h) A surviving unremarried spouse of a veteran who suffered a service connected death or the spouse of a veteran who suffered a service connected disability that prevents the veteran from qualifying for civil service employment shall be entitled to the same preference to which the veteran would have been entitled under this Section.

i) A preference shall also be given to the following individuals: 10 points for one parent of an unmarried veteran who suffered a service connected death or a service connected disability that prevents the veteran from qualifying for civil service employment. The first parent to receive a civil service appointment shall be the parent entitled to the preference.

(Source: Amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 4510, effective March 22, 1993)