

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

July 19, 2002

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto Senate Bill 1683 entitled "AN ACT in relation to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District."

Senate Bill 1683 amends the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Act and provides uniform promotional preferences to expend the eligibility requirements for veterans. Senate Bill 1683 provides that the District shall grant five points to any veteran being considered for a new position or promotion who has served in the Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps or Coast Guard for more than 180 consecutive days and was honorably discharged. Senate Bill 1683 also deletes the current law regarding how veteran's preference points shall be awarded to employees of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Although I agree with the intent of Senate Bill 1683 to simplify the veteran's preference law for employees of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, I also believe that changes in the way veterans earn preference points should not be done on a piecemeal basis for each separate public entity.

Illinois' veteran's preference law was recently reinterpreted by the courts in the Denton v. Civil Service Commission of the State of Illinois, and as a result there is public confusion over what the veteran's preference law currently requires. The current system is difficult both for potential employees (including veterans) to understand and for State entities to implement. Changing the veteran's preference law that governs the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District into a different system than that used by other governmental entities will add to that confusion. Instead, I urge the General Assembly to study the veteran's preference law and to pass clear, understandable veteran's preference law that applies uniformly to all governmental entities.

For this reason, I hereby veto and return Senate Bill 1683.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR