

Priority of Service for Eligible Veterans and Eligible Foster Youth

House Bill 1452 and Texas Family Code, Chapter 264 directs the Texas Workforce Commission to give priority of service to qualified veterans and foster youth.

Qualified veterans and foster youth receive preference for training or assistance under a job training or employment assistance program or service. The order for priority of services is eligible veterans, eligible foster youth, non-eligible persons.

Definitions:

Eligible veteran – any one of the following:

- *Federal/state qualified veteran* – a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable as specified at 38 U.S.C.101(2). Active services include full-time duty in the National Guard or a Reserve component, other than full-time for training purposes.
- *Federal qualified spouse* – the spouse of:
 - (1) any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
 - (2) any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
 - (i) missing in action
 - (ii) captured in line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - (iii) forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power;
 - (3) any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs;
 - (4) any veteran who died while a disability, as indicated in paragraph (3) of this section, was in existence.
- *State qualified spouse* – a spouse:
 - (1) who meets the definition of federal qualified spouse; or
 - (2) of any member of the armed forces who died while serving on active military, naval, or air service.

Eligible foster youth

- *Current foster youth* -- A youth, age 14 or older, who is receiving substitute care services under the managing conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), including youth residing in private foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, juvenile correctional institutions, and relative care; or
- *Former foster youth* -- A youth up to 23 years of age, who formerly was under the managing conservatorship of DPFS, until:
 - a court transferred the conservatorship;
 - the youth was legally emancipated (i.e., the youth's minority status was removed by a court); or
 - the youth attained 18 years of age.

Senate Bill 431 amends the Texas Penal Code by adding §32.54, which makes it a Class C misdemeanor to falsely use or claim to hold a military record for the purpose of receiving priority of service. There are penalties associated with proclaiming eligible-veteran status that is fraudulent, fictitious, or has been revoked.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
1-800-735-2989 (TDD) ♦ 1-800-735-2988 (VOICE) ♦ RELAY TEXAS.....7-1-1