

Chapter 586

(Senate Bill 152)

AN ACT concerning

**Labor and Employment – Hiring and Promotion Preferences – Veterans of Commissioned Corps**

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “eligible veteran” to include certain commissioned corps for the purpose of granting a certain preference in hiring and promotion to certain veterans, spouses of certain veterans, and surviving spouses of certain veterans; and generally relating to hiring and promotion preferences for veterans and their spouses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Labor and Employment  
Section 3–714  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Labor and Employment**

3–714.

(a) In this section, “eligible veteran” means a veteran of any branch of the armed forces of the United States who has received an honorable discharge or a certificate of satisfactory completion of military service, including:

- (1) the National Guard [and];
- (2) the military reserves;
- (3) **THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE;**

AND

(4) **THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

(b) An employer may grant a preference in hiring and promotion to:

- (1) an eligible veteran;

(2) the spouse of an eligible veteran who has a service-connected disability;  
or

(3) the surviving spouse of a deceased eligible veteran.

(c) Granting a preference under subsection (b) of this section does not violate any State or local equal employment opportunity law.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

**Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.**