

Utah Code Title 71, governing Veterans Preference

Regarding your query, Utah legislation concerning veteran's preference in hiring for government entities, including cities and counties, is in statute.

Specifically, *Utah Code Title 71, governing Veterans Preference*, was enacted in 1992. This legislation mandates that government entities grant a veteran's preference upon initial hiring to eligible veterans or their spouses. It's important to clarify that this preference does not guarantee employment but ensures that veterans or their spouses are given preference during the hiring process, such as through points added to scores or other considerations during evaluation.

For your information, here's a brief history of this legislation:

* **1947**: Honorably discharged veterans and their widows were given preference for appointment or employment in public work for the state, cities, towns, counties, and school districts.

* **1992**: The language was updated to include "each government entity" (which encompasses the state, counties, municipalities, special districts, and other political subdivisions) granting a veteran's preference.

* **2000**: "Spouse" was specifically added to the definition of "preference eligible," and the issue of preference not being effectively applied to spouses was rectified.

* **2015**: HB 232 was introduced, creating protections for private sector employers to offer veterans preference in employment.

The legislation further outlines how this preference is applied, which can include adding a percentage to the score of a preference-eligible individual who achieves a passing score on an examination, or by giving preference in interviewing and hiring for positions that do not require an examination.