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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Detailed Analysis of S.B. 154

Summary

You requested more information about each section of the Revised Code amended by S.B. 154 to include the U.S. Space Force in the definitions of the U.S. armed forces, armed services, and uniformed services throughout state law. Below, I have recreated the table from the analysis of the As Introduced version of S.B. 154 and included more information about each section listed.

R.C. Section	Description of State Statute	Analysis
R.C. 122.925	Veteran-Friendly Business Procurement Program (Department of Development)	The bill clarifies that veterans of the U.S. Space Force are eligible for the Veteran-Friendly Business Procurement Program. Under continuing law, the program allows businesses owned and controlled by veterans to apply for certification as a “veteran-friendly business enterprise,” which allows them to be eligible to participate in any public initiatives or strategies that political subdivisions have established to reward veteran-friendly businesses or to increase the participation, representation, or inclusion of veteran-friendly businesses in business opportunities, and in any programs that political

R.C. Section	Description of State Statute	Analysis
		subdivisions may have that set aside a certain amount of public contracts to award to veteran-friendly business enterprises.
R.C. 124.23	Examinations for civil service	The bill clarifies that veterans of the U.S. Space Force, as well as members of a reserve component of the U.S. Space Force, are eligible for additional credit on a civil service examination, if they pass. Continuing law grants veterans and members of a reserve component of the armed forces additional credit on a civil service examination score in which a qualifying individual receives a passing grade. ¹
R.C. 145.30, 742.52, 742.521, 3307.75, and 3309.02 (R.C. 145.301, 3307.751, and 3309.021, not in the bill)	Retirement systems – military service credit	The bill clarifies that veterans of the U.S. Space Force who seek reemployment under the United States Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) must have their prior military service counted toward their pension program under certain circumstances specified in continuing law. These veterans also may, in accordance with continuing law requirements, purchase or obtain additional service credit based on their prior military service. The amount and cost of the credit varies depending on which retirement system in which the veteran is a member. ²
R.C. 2151.4210	Child abuse or neglect investigation	The bill clarifies that if a member of the U.S. Space Force is under investigation by a public children services agency for alleged child abuse or neglect, the appropriate authority of the U.S. Space Force must be notified by the public children services agency that an investigation is being conducted. Under

¹ R.C. 124.11, not in the bill.

² The five state retirement systems are: the Public Employees Retirement System, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, the State Teachers Retirement System, the School Employees Retirement System, and the State Highway Patrol Retirement System (SHPRS). Although the SHPRS law also contains provisions for purchasing or obtaining service credit for prior or interrupted military service, those provisions were not included in the bill (see R.C. 5505.16(D) and 5505.25, not in the bill but included in AM-135-1159).

R.C. Section	Description of State Statute	Analysis
		continuing law, a public children services agency must notify the appropriate authority of the relevant branch of the armed forces if a member of the armed forces is being investigated by the public children services agency for alleged child abuse or neglect.
R.C. 3313.471	Board of Education – presentation of career info to students	The bill clarifies that any restrictions on information about the U.S. Space Force presented to students must be uniformly imposed upon “representatives of the armed forces, skilled trades, institutions of higher education, career-technical education providers, business, industry, charitable institutions, and other employers . . .” Under continuing law, a district board of education must provide each such entity with at least “two opportunities per school year to present information in person to all students in grades nine through twelve individually or in a group setting and shall provide students with the opportunity to speak in person with the entities that participate in those opportunities.”
R.C. 3319.085	Reemployment of school employee under USERRA ³	The bill clarifies that a veteran of the U.S. Space Force who held a nonteaching position in a school district before serving in the U.S. Space Force is entitled to reemployment upon discharge from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable. Continuing law requires that a school district comply with USERRA, which entitles a veteran to reemployment after being discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
R.C. 3511.01	Armed services absent voter’s ballots	The bill clarifies that members of the U.S. Space Force are eligible to receive an absent voter’s ballot for each election in compliance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens

³ 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) Chapter 43.

R.C. Section	Description of State Statute	Analysis
		Absentee Voting Act. ⁴ Continuing law states that certain members of the Uniformed Services are eligible to apply for an absent voter's ballot for each election.
R.C. 4731.36	Physicians licensing exceptions	The bill clarifies that a commissioned medical officer of the Space Force is not subject to the Physicians and Limited Practitioners Law while engaging in the officer's official duties. Continuing law exempts medical officers of the armed forces from the requirements of that law.
R.C. 4743.041	Occupational licensing boards – temporary licenses for service members	The bill clarifies that members and their spouses of the U.S. Space Force, or its reserve component, who are on active duty in Ohio may receive a temporary or regular (if the licensing authority elects) license or certificate to practice a trade or profession if specified requirements are met. Continuing law grants such a license to a member of the uniformed services, or the member's spouse, who is on active duty in Ohio if those requirements are met.
R.C. 5747.01	Income tax	The bill includes members of the U.S. Space Force in benefits available to members of the armed Forces with regard to the state income tax, including being exempt from state income tax for the tax year in which a member of the armed Forces died as a result of their service, as well as exemption of military pay and allowances from gross income for the purpose of calculating state income tax. The bill also clarifies that a member of a reserve component of the U.S. Space Force is eligible for a deadline extension for state tax returns and payments.
R.C. 5903.01 and 5903.02	Veterans' rights; reemployment	The bill clarifies that a member of the U.S. Space Force is entitled to reemployment under USERRA). Continuing law affirms the state's compliance with federal law, which grants

⁴ 52 U.S.C. 20301 *et seq.*

R.C. Section	Description of State Statute	Analysis
		service members the right to be reemployed in their civilian jobs if they leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and meet certain conditions. USERRA also guarantees service members other rights, including the right to be free from discrimination or retaliation on the basis of an individual's service in the uniformed services. ⁵
R.C. 5907.01 and 5907.04	Veterans' homes	The bill specifies that a veteran of the U.S. Space Force is eligible for admission to a veterans' home. Under continuing law, veterans are eligible for admission to a veterans' home operated by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. ⁶
R.C. 5910.01	War orphans and severely disabled veterans' children scholarships	The bill specifies that a child of a deceased or severely disabled veteran of the U.S. Space Force is eligible to receive a scholarship under the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Program. Under continuing law, the program is available to individuals who are between the ages of 16 and 25, have resided in Ohio for a certain period of time, and are in financial need, as determined by the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Board. ⁷

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⁵ 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43. For more information about USERRA, see [A Guide to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act](#), available on the U.S. Department of Labor's official website: dol.gov.

⁶ 38 U.S.C. 101.

⁷ R.C. 5910.03, not in the bill.