HOUSE BILL No. 2406

By Committee on Taxation

4-1

AN ACT concerning members of the military; relating to harassment; civil cause of action; amending K.S.A. 44-1125, 44-1126 and 44-1127 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 44-1125 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1125. As used in this aet K.S.A. 44-1125 through 44-1128, and amendments thereto:

- (a) "Member of the military" means a member of the armed forces or national guard on active duty or a member of an active reserve unit in the armed forces or national guard.
- (b) "Person" and "public accommodations" have the meanings provided by K.S.A. 44-1002, and amendments thereto.
- (c) "Immediate family" means father, mother, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, spouse or grandparent of the member of the military.
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 44-1126 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1126. (a) No person shall:
- (1) Discriminate against a member of the military because of military status;
- (2) discriminate against a member of the military with respect to employment, or employment position or status, because of membership or service in the military;
- (3) deny employment to any member of the military, or disqualify for or discharge from employment any member of the military, because of membership or service in the military; or
- (4) discharge from employment any member of the military because of the member's performance of emergency military duty; *or*
- (5) injure, intimidate, interfere or harass any member of the military or an immediate family member of such member of the military.
- (b) No officer or employee of the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state shall:
- 32 (1) Discriminate against a member of the military because of military status:
 - (2) discriminate against a member of the military with respect to employment or appointment, or employment position or status, because of membership or service in the military; or

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(3) deny employment to a member of the military, or disqualify for or discharge from employment any member of the military, because of membership or service in the military.

- (c) No person shall prohibit or refuse entrance to, or otherwise discriminate against, any member of the military in any place of public accommodations because the member is wearing the member's military uniform or because of the member's membership or service in the military.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 44-1127 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1127. Any person aggrieved by an alleged violation of this aet K.S.A. 44-1126, and amendments thereto, may bring a civil action in the district court of the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred or in which the alleged violator resides or transacts business. If the court finds that a violation has occurred, the court may award to the plaintiff actual damages, or \$500, whichever is greater, for each violation. The court may also grant as relief any permanent or temporary injunction or restraining order, including an order enjoining the defendant from engaging in such violation or ordering such affirmative action as may be appropriate. The prevailing party shall be awarded court costs and reasonable attorney fees.
 - Sec. 4. K.S.A. 44-1125, 44-1126 and 44-1127 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.