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Paid Military Leave for Public Employees in Nevada

By CAPT Samuel F. Wright, JAGC, USN (Ret.)²

1.18: USERRA and Other Laws

2.0: Paid Leave

Nevada Revised Statutes section 281.145 provides as follows concerning paid military leave for employees of the state and its political subdivisions:

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, any public officer or employee of the State or any agency thereof, or of a political subdivision or an agency of a political subdivision, who is an active member of the United States Army Reserve, the United States Naval Reserve, the United States Marine Corps Reserve, the United States Coast Guard Reserve, the United States Air Force Reserve or the Nevada National Guard must be relieved from the officer's or employee's duties, upon the officer's or employee's request, to serve under orders including, without limitation, orders for training or

¹ I invite the reader's attention to www.roa.org/lawcenter. You will find approximately 1500 "Law Review" articles about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and other laws that are especially pertinent to those who serve our country, along with a detailed Subject Index, to facilitate finding articles about very specific topics. The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) initiated this column in 1997. I am the author of about 1300 of the articles. In our "state laws" section, we have an article for each state about the state laws that grant paid military leave and other benefits, over and above USERRA, to employees of the state and (often) to employees of the state's political subdivisions.

² BA 1973 Northwestern University, JD (law degree) 1976 University of Houston, LLM (advanced law degree) 1980 Georgetown University. I served in the Navy and Navy Reserve as a Judge Advocate General's Corps officer and retired in 2007. I am a life member of ROA. I have dealt with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and the Veterans' Reemployment Rights Act (VRRA—the 1940 version of the federal reemployment statute) for 35 years. I developed the interest and expertise in this law during the decade (1982-92) that I worked for the United States Department of Labor (DOL) as an attorney. Together with one other DOL attorney (Susan M. Webman), I largely drafted the proposed VRRA rewrite that President George H.W. Bush presented to Congress, as his proposal, in February 1991. On 10/13/1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law USERRA, Public Law 103-353, 108 Stat. 3162. The version of USERRA that President Clinton signed in 1994 was 85% the same as the Webman-Wright draft. USERRA is codified in title 38 of the United States Code at sections 4301 through 4335 (38 U.S.C. 4301-35). I have also dealt with the VRRA and USERRA as a judge advocate in the Navy and Navy Reserve, as an attorney for the Department of Defense (DOD) organization called Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), as an attorney for the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC), as an attorney in private practice, and as the Director of the Service Members Law Center (SMLC), as a full-time employee of ROA, for six years (2009-15). Please see Law Review 15052 (June 2015), concerning the accomplishments of the SMLC. My paid employment with ROA ended 5/31/2015, but I have continued the work of the SMLC as a volunteer. You can reach me by e-mail at SWright@roa.org or by telephone at 800-809-9448, ext. 730. I will provide up to one hour of information without charge. If you need more than that, I will charge a very reasonable hourly rate. If you need a lawyer, I can suggest several well-qualified USERRA lawyers.

deployment, without loss of the officer's or employee's regular compensation for a period of not more than the number of hours equivalent to 15 working days in any 12-month period, as prescribed in subsection 3 or 4, as applicable. No such absence may be a part of the officer's or employee's annual vacation provided for by law.

2. In addition to the leave authorized pursuant to subsection 1, any public officer or employee of the State or any agency thereof whose work schedule includes Saturday or Sunday and who is an active member of the United States Army Reserve, the United States Naval Reserve, the United States Marine Corps Reserve, the United States Coast Guard Reserve, the United States Air Force Reserve or the Nevada National Guard must be relieved from the officer's or employee's duties, upon the officer's or employee's request, for a period of not more than the number of hours equivalent to 24 working days in any 12-month period, as prescribed in subsection 3, to serve under orders for training that is scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday, including, without limitation, monthly and annual training. No such absence may be a part of the officer's or employee's annual vacation provided for by law. An officer or employee is not entitled to receive his or her regular compensation for any hours in a working day in which the officer or employee serves under orders for training pursuant to this subsection if his or her military pay for the service is equal to or exceeds his or her regular compensation for those hours. If the officer's or employee's military pay does not exceed his or her regular compensation for those hours, the officer or employee is entitled to receive, in addition to his or her military pay for those hours, the difference between the regular compensation that the officer or employee would have otherwise received as an officer or employee and his or her military pay for those hours. An officer or employee is not entitled to:

- (a) Receive any other compensation for which he or she would otherwise be eligible, including, without limitation, compensation pursuant to NRS 284.358; or
- (b) Use any annual leave, compensatory time or other paid leave or any unpaid leave that is required as a result of statewide economic conditions, for any hours for which the officer or employee receives compensation pursuant to this subsection.

3. The Personnel Commission created by NRS 284.030 shall adopt regulations prescribing for each agency of the State the 12-month period during which an officer or employee of the agency is eligible to take the number of working days of leave set forth in subsections 1 and 2.

4. A political subdivision shall establish the 12-month period during which an officer or employee of an agency of the political subdivision or an agency thereof is eligible to take the number of working days of leave set forth in subsection 1.

5. As used in this section:

- (a) "Work schedule" means the working days that an officer or employee is regularly assigned to work. The term does not include, without limitation, any temporary change in assigned working days unless the change becomes permanent.
- (b) "Working day" means a period of work consisting of the number of hours that a public officer or employee is regularly scheduled to work. The term does not include, without limitation, overtime, or any time in which the officer or employee is on standby status or has been called back to work during his or her scheduled time off.³

Access the Nevada Revised Statutes on Your Own

We do our best to keep these state law articles up-to-date and provide the most relevant sections of the applicable statute for you to review. Nonetheless, we still recommend you consult the most recent version of the law to make sure nothing has changed from what we discussed in this article. You can find a public version of the entirety of the Nevada Revised Statutes for yourself online, for free, at

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Legal/LawLibrary/NRS/index.html>. To access Section 281.145 discussed in this article, select "Title 23 Public Officers and Employees" → "Chapter 281 General Provisions" → "NRS 281.145 Leave of absence for military duty; compensation". For direct access, follow this link:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Legal/LawLibrary/NRS/NRS-281.html#NRS281Sec145>.

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ROA is more than a century old—it was established on 10/1/1922 by a group of veterans of "The Great War," as World War I was then known. One of those veterans was Captain Harry S. Truman. As President, in 1950, he signed our congressional charter. Under that charter, our mission is to advocate for the implementation of policies that provide for adequate national security. For almost a century, we have argued that the Reserve Components, including the National Guard, are a cost-effective way to meet our nation's defense needs.

Through these articles, and by other means, including amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs that we file in the Supreme Court and other courts, we educate service members, military spouses, attorneys, judges, employers, DOL investigators, ESGR volunteers, congressional and state legislative staffers, and others about the legal rights of service members and about how to

³ NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 281.145 (LexisNexis 2022).

exercise and enforce those rights. We provide information to service members, without regard to whether they are members of ROA, but please understand that ROA members, through their dues and contributions, pay the costs of providing this service and all the other great services that ROA provides.

If you are now serving or have ever served in any one of our nation's eight⁴ uniformed services, you are eligible for membership in ROA, and a one-year membership only costs \$20 or \$450 for a life membership. Enlisted personnel as well as officers are eligible for full membership, and eligibility applies to those who are serving or have served in the Active Component, the National Guard, or the Reserve. If you are eligible for ROA membership, please join. You can join on-line at www.roa.org or call ROA at 800-809-9448.

If you are not eligible to join, please contribute financially, to help us keep up and expand this effort on behalf of those who serve. Please mail us a contribution to:

Reserve Organization of America
1 Constitution Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002⁵

⁴ Congress recently established the United States Space Force as the 8th uniformed service.

⁵ You can also contribute on-line at www.roa.org.