

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education for certain
3 military personnel; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.;
4 requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with the Department of
6 Veterans' Affairs, to create a uniform system for the
7 award of postsecondary credit to certain
8 servicemembers and veterans of the United States Armed
9 Forces; requiring the Articulation Coordinating
10 Committee to convene a workgroup by a specified date;
11 providing membership and duties of the workgroup;
12 providing administrative support for the workgroup;
13 requiring the workgroup to provide recommendations to
14 the Board of Governors and State Board of Education by
15 a specified date; requiring the Articulation
16 Coordinating Committee to review and identify military
17 experience and credentials for postsecondary credit by
18 a specified date; requiring the Articulation
19 Coordinating Committee to approve and the Board of
20 Governors and State Board of Education to adopt a
21 specified list; requiring certain postsecondary
22 institutions to award credit for specified military
23 experience and credentials; authorizing the award of
24 additional credits; requiring certain credits to
25 transfer between specified postsecondary institutions;

26 | amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring specified
 27 | postsecondary institutions to waive the transcript fee
 28 | for active duty members of the Armed Forces of the
 29 | United States, certain veterans, and their spouses and
 30 | dependents; providing reporting requirements;
 31 | providing for rules and regulations; providing an
 32 | effective date.
 33 |

34 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 36 | Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
 37 | to read:

38 | 1004.096 College credit for military experience and
 39 | training and education courses.—

40 | (1) In consultation with the Department of Veterans'
 41 | Affairs, the Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the
 42 | State Board of Education shall adopt rules that create a uniform
 43 | system that enables ~~enable~~ eligible servicemembers or veterans
 44 | of the United States Armed Forces to earn postsecondary ~~academic~~
 45 | ~~college~~ credit at public postsecondary educational institutions
 46 | for experience and college-level training and education acquired
 47 | in the military. The regulations and rules shall include
 48 | procedures for credential evaluation and the award of
 49 | postsecondary ~~academic college~~ credit, including, but not
 50 | limited to, equivalency and alignment of military coursework

51 with appropriate postsecondary ~~college~~ courses, and ~~course~~
52 descriptions, ~~type and amount of college credit that may be~~
53 awarded, ~~and transfer of credit.~~

54 (2) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene
55 a workgroup by August 31, 2020, to develop a uniform process for
56 determining when military experience and credentials are
57 appropriate for postsecondary credit and to meet the
58 requirements of this section.

59 (a) The workgroup shall be composed of the following 13
60 members:

61 1. The chair of the Articulation Coordinating Committee,
62 who shall serve as chair.

63 2. Four members representing academic affairs
64 administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by
65 the chair of the Board of Governors.

66 3. Four members representing academic affairs
67 administrators and faculty from Florida College System
68 institutions, appointed by the chair of the State Board of
69 Education.

70 4. Two members representing faculty from career centers,
71 appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education.

72 5. Two members representing veterans, appointed by the
73 executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

74 (b) The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
75 administrative support for the workgroup.

76 (c) The workgroup shall provide recommendations regarding
77 a uniform process for determining postsecondary course
78 equivalencies and the minimum credit that must be awarded for
79 military experience and credentials to the Board of Governors
80 and the State Board of Education by December 1, 2020, for
81 approval at the next publicly noticed meeting of each board.

82 (d) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall
83 facilitate the review of military experience and credentials for
84 postsecondary course equivalencies and the amount of credit that
85 must be awarded beginning no later than January 1, 2021, in
86 accordance with the approved process.

87 (e) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall approve
88 a list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum
89 credit that must be awarded for military experience and
90 credentials no later than November 30, 2021, and annually
91 thereafter. The Board of Governors and the State Board of
92 Education shall adopt the list approved by the Articulation
93 Coordinating Committee at the next publicly noticed meeting of
94 each board.

95 (f) State universities, Florida College System
96 institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit
97 for military experience and credentials based on the list
98 adopted by the Board of Governors and the State Board of
99 Education, if the credit is applicable toward the student's
100 degree or certificate. Institutions may award additional

101 postsecondary credit if appropriate. Credit awarded in
102 accordance with minimum credit requirements is guaranteed to
103 transfer to other state universities, Florida College System
104 institutions, and career centers as if the credit were earned at
105 the receiving institution.

106 Section 2. Subsection (17) is added to section 1009.26,
107 Florida Statutes, to read:

108 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

109 (17) (a) A state university, Florida College System
110 institution, career center operated by a school district under
111 s. 1001.44, or charter technical career center shall waive the
112 transcript fee for a person who is an active duty member or an
113 honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United
114 States and his or her spouse and dependents.

115 (b) Each state university, Florida College System
116 institution, career center operated by a school district under
117 s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to
118 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education,
119 respectively, the number and value of fee waivers granted
120 annually under this subsection.

121 (c) The Board of Governors and the State Board of
122 Education shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to
123 administer this subsection.

124 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.