

CS/HB 1157

2016

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education for
3 veterans; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.; directing the
4 Department of Education to award certain postsecondary
5 course credit to veterans; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.;
6 directing the Department of Education to award
7 postsecondary course credit for specified examinations
8 and tests; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; revising the
9 residency requirement for certain tuition waivers for
10 recipients of specified military decorations;
11 conforming provisions; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.;
12 providing that specified programs and test scores meet
13 certain educator certification requirements; providing
14 an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
19 to read:

20 1004.096 College credit for military training and
21 education courses.—The Board of Governors shall adopt
22 regulations and the State Board of Education shall adopt rules
23 that enable eligible servicemembers or honorably discharged
24 veterans ~~members~~ of the United States Armed Forces to earn
25 academic college credit at public postsecondary educational
26 institutions for college-level training and education acquired

27 | in the military. The regulations and rules shall include
28 | procedures for credential evaluation and the award of academic
29 | college credit, including, but not limited to, equivalency and
30 | alignment of military coursework with appropriate college
31 | courses, course descriptions, type and amount of college credit
32 | that may be awarded, and transfer of credit.

33 | Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1007.27, Florida
34 | Statutes, is amended to read:

35 | 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

36 | (2) The Department of Education shall annually identify
37 | and publish the minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or
38 | courses for which credit is to be awarded for each College Level
39 | Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination, College Board
40 | Advanced Placement Program examination, Advanced International
41 | Certificate of Education examination, ~~and~~ International
42 | Baccalaureate examination, Excelsior College subject
43 | examination, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
44 | Support (DANTES) subject standardized test, and Defense Language
45 | Proficiency Test (DLPT). The department shall use student
46 | performance data in subsequent postsecondary courses to
47 | determine the appropriate examination scores and courses for
48 | which credit is to be granted. Minimum scores may vary by
49 | subject area based on available performance data. In addition,
50 | the department shall identify such courses in the general
51 | education core curriculum of each state university and Florida
52 | College System institution.

53 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (8) of
 54 section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

55 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

56 (8) A state university, a Florida College System
 57 institution, a career center operated by a school district under
 58 s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive
 59 tuition for undergraduate college credit programs and career
 60 certificate programs for each recipient of a Purple Heart or
 61 another combat decoration superior in precedence who:

62 (b) Is currently, or ~~and~~ was at the time of the military
 63 action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or
 64 other combat decoration superior in precedence, a resident of
 65 this state; and

66 (c) Submits to the state university, ~~the Florida College~~
 67 ~~System~~ institution, or ~~the career center operated by a school~~
 68 ~~district under s. 1001.44, or the charter technical career~~
 69 ~~center~~ the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from
 70 service as documentation that the student has received a Purple
 71 Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence. If
 72 the DD-214 is not available, other documentation may be
 73 acceptable if recognized by the United States Department of
 74 Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as
 75 documenting the award.

76
 77 Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of
 78 another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be

79 applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit
 80 hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student
 81 is enrolled.

82 Section 4. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (5) of
 83 section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended and paragraphs
 84 (g) and (h) are added to that subsection, to read:

85 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

86 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 87 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

88 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 89 teaching certificate issued by another state; ~~or~~

90 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 91 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 92 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 93 Education;

94 (g) Documentation of successful completion of a United
 95 States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
 96 program; or

97 (h) Documentation of a passing score on the Defense
 98 Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

99
 100 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for middle
 101 grades teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to
 102 obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through
 103 postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

104 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.