

By the Council for Lifelong Learning and Committee on
 Education Appropriations and Representatives Garcia,
 Harrington, Hogan, Mahon and Melvin

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to student withdrawal from
 courses due to military service; requiring
 rules and policies by district school boards,
 community college district boards of trustees,
 and university boards of trustees; providing
 that a student shall not suffer academic or
 financial penalties; authorizing the refund of
 fees; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Each district school board, community
 college district board of trustees, and university board of
 trustees shall establish, by rule and pursuant to guidelines
 of the Florida Board of Education, policies regarding
 currently enrolled students who are called to or enlist in
 active military service, including members of the National
 Guard who are called to active service. Such policies shall
 provide that any student enrolled in a postsecondary course or
 courses at an area technical center, a public community
 college, a public college, or a state university shall not
 incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing
 military service. Such student shall be permitted the option
 of either completing the course or courses at a later date
 without penalty or withdrawing from the course or courses with
 a full refund of fees paid. If the student chooses to
 withdraw, the student's record shall reflect that the
 withdrawal is due to active military service.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.