

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 875 w/CS Requirements for High School Graduation
SPONSOR(S): Brandenburg
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 1096

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Education K-20	23 Y, 0 N w/CS	Aldis	Bohannon
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill expands the eligibility dates for Korean War veterans who served prior to completing the requirements for high school graduation to qualify for a standard high school diploma. The modified eligibility dates more closely reflect the recognized dates of the Korean conflict.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 1003.43(13), F.S., gives the Commissioner of Education authority to award a standard high school diploma to Korean War veterans who served prior to completing the necessary high school graduation requirements. This provision was enacted in 2002.¹ Currently, 431 high school diplomas have been awarded based upon service in the Korean War.²

To qualify for the diploma a Korean War veteran must have been:

- Honorably discharged;
- Beginning high school between 1946 and 1950;
- Scheduled to graduate high school between 1950 and 1954; and
- Inducted into the United States Armed Forces between June 1950 and January 1954.

The Korean conflict is defined as beginning June 27, 1950, and ending January 31, 1955.³ Under current law, a veteran that was drafted or volunteered for service after January 1954 would not be eligible for the high school diploma based upon the induction date requirements.

This bill changes the induction eligibility dates to include those veterans who were inducted to the armed forces between January 1954 and January 1955. This change more accurately reflects the official date of the conflict.

The bill also changed the date range veterans must have been scheduled to graduate between from 1950-1954 to 1949-1955. The change from 1954 to 1955 was necessary if persons inducted between January 1954 and January 1955 were to be eligible. The change from 1950 to 1949 in both the graduation and induction date requirements provides an extra year of eligibility for the diploma for otherwise qualifying veterans.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 1003.43, F.S.; revises the dates used to determine eligibility for the standard high diploma available to Korean War veterans.

¹ Chapter 2002-278, *Laws of Florida*.

² Florida Department of Education.

³ The official dates are defined in s. 1.01(14)(e), F.S. and 38 U.S.C. 101(9).

Section 2: Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a direct economic impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

This bill does not appear to violate any constitutional provisions.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not grant additional rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

The Committee on Education K-20 adopted one amendment to the bill on March 15, 2004.

The amendment changed the induction date range for eligibility purposes from 1950-1955 to 1949-1955. The amendment made the induction date requirements consistent with the scheduled graduation date requirement.