

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 postsecondary course
 5 credit for specified examinations and tests; amending
 6 s. 1009.26, F.S.; revising the residency requirement
 7 for certain tuition waivers for recipients of
 8 specified military decorations; conforming provisions;
 9 amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; providing that specified
 10 programs and test scores meet certain educator
 11 certification requirements; providing an effective
 12 date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
 17 to read:

18 1004.096 College credit for military training, and
 19 education courses, and subject examinations.—

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

27 | the award of academic college credit, including, but not limited
28 | to, equivalency and alignment of military coursework with
29 | appropriate college courses, course descriptions, type and
30 | amount of college credit that may be awarded, and transfer of
31 | credit.

32 | (2) The department shall annually identify and publish the
33 | minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for which
34 | credit is to be awarded for each Excelsior College subject
35 | examination, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
36 | Support (DANTES) subject standardized test, and Defense Language
37 | Proficiency Test (DLPT). The department shall identify such
38 | courses in the general education core curriculum of each state
39 | university and Florida College System institution.

40 | Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (8) of
41 | section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

42 | 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

43 | (8) A state university, a Florida College System
44 | institution, a career center operated by a school district under
45 | s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive
46 | tuition for undergraduate college credit programs and career
47 | certificate programs for each recipient of a Purple Heart or
48 | another combat decoration superior in precedence who:

49 | (b) Physically ~~Is currently, and was at the time of the~~
50 | ~~military action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple~~
51 | ~~Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence, a~~
52 | ~~resident of~~ resides in this state while enrolled in the

53 university, institution, or center; and

54 (c) Submits to the ~~state university, the Florida College~~
 55 ~~System~~ institution, or ~~the career center operated by a school~~
 56 ~~district under s. 1001.44, or the charter technical career~~
 57 ~~center~~ the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from
 58 service as documentation that the student has received a Purple
 59 Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence. If
 60 the DD-214 is not available, other documentation may be
 61 acceptable if recognized by the United States Department of
 62 Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as
 63 documenting the award.

64
 65 Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of
 66 another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be
 67 applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit
 68 hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student
 69 is enrolled.

70 Section 3. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (5) of
 71 section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended and paragraphs
 72 (g) and (h) are added to that subsection, to read:

73 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

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

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

78 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the

79 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
80 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
81 Education;

82 (g) Documentation of successful completion of a United
83 States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
84 program; or

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

87
88 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for middle
89 grades teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to
90 obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through
91 postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

92 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.