

By Senator Avila

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to nursing education pathway for  
3       military combat medics; providing a short title;  
4       amending s. 464.0195, F.S.; revising a primary goal of  
5       the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that  
6       development of a statewide plan for nursing manpower  
7       must include the encouragement and coordination of the  
8       development of partnerships with hospitals which  
9       provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain  
10      clinical experience; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.;  
11      defining the term "accredited program"; requiring that  
12      the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a  
13      workgroup to establish a process for determining  
14      postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum  
15      postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
16      that must be awarded in accredited nursing education  
17      programs for military training and education required  
18      for service in specified positions; providing for the  
19      composition of and the provision of administrative  
20      support to the workgroup; requiring that the workgroup  
21      ensure that the award of credit for military training  
22      and education does not impair a nursing education  
23      program's ability to comply with requirements relating  
24      to the approval of nursing education programs;  
25      requiring the workgroup to provide, by a specified  
26      date, recommendations regarding the determination  
27      process to the Board of Governors and State Board of  
28      Education for approval; requiring that, upon approval  
29      of the recommendations, the Articulation Coordinating

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30 Committee facilitate the review of military training  
31 and education received by individuals who served in  
32 specified positions and the determination of minimum  
33 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
34 awarded for specified military training and education;  
35 requiring that the Articulation Coordinating  
36 Committee, within a specified timeframe and annually  
37 thereafter, approve a prioritized list of  
38 postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum  
39 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
40 that must be awarded for such training and education;  
41 requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of  
42 Education to adopt the prioritized list; requiring  
43 that the minimum postsecondary credit or career  
44 education clock hours be delineated in a required  
45 statewide articulation agreement; requiring state  
46 universities, Florida College System institutions, and  
47 career centers to award postsecondary credit or career  
48 education clock hours in nursing education programs  
49 based on the prioritized list; authorizing the award  
50 of additional postsecondary credit or career education  
51 clock hours; providing that such postsecondary credit  
52 or career education clock hours are transferable;  
53 providing an effective date.

54  
55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

56  
57 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Pathway for  
58 Military Combat Medics Act."

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59 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
60 464.0195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61 464.0195 Florida Center for Nursing; goals.—

62 (2) The primary goals for the center shall be to:

63 (a) Develop a strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower  
64 in this state by:

65 1. Conducting a statistically valid biennial data-driven  
66 gap analysis of the supply and demand of the health care  
67 workforce. Demand must align with the Labor Market Estimating  
68 Conference created in s. 216.136. The center shall:

69 a. Establish and maintain a database on nursing supply and  
70 demand in the state, to include current supply and demand.

71 b. Analyze the current and future supply and demand in the  
72 state and the impact of this state's participation in the Nurse  
73 Licensure Compact under s. 464.0095.

74 2. Developing recommendations to increase nurse faculty and  
75 clinical preceptors, support nurse faculty development, and  
76 promote advanced nurse education.

77 3. Developing best practices in the academic preparation  
78 and continuing education needs of qualified nurse educators,  
79 nurse faculty, and clinical preceptors.

80 4. Collecting data on nurse faculty, employment,  
81 distribution, and retention.

82 5. Piloting innovative projects to support the recruitment,  
83 development, and retention of qualified nurse faculty and  
84 clinical preceptors.

85 6. Encouraging and coordinating the development of  
86 academic-practice partnerships, including partnerships with  
87 hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to

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88 obtain clinical experience, to support nurse faculty employment  
89 and advancement.

90 7. Developing distance learning infrastructure for nursing  
91 education and advancing faculty competencies in the pedagogy of  
92 teaching and the evidence-based use of technology, simulation,  
93 and distance learning techniques.

94 Section 3. Subsection (3) is added to section 1004.096,  
95 Florida Statutes, to read:

96 1004.096 Postsecondary credit for military training and  
97 education courses.—

98 (3) (a) For purposes of this subsection, the term  
99 “accredited program” has the same meaning as in s. 464.003.

100 (b) By July 15, 2023, the Articulation Coordinating  
101 Committee shall convene a workgroup that is responsible for  
102 establishing a process for determining postsecondary course  
103 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career  
104 education clock hours that must be awarded in an accredited  
105 program for military training and education required for service  
106 as an Army Combat Medic Specialist, a Navy or Fleet Marine Force  
107 Hospital Corpsman, an Air Force or Space Force Aerospace Medical  
108 Service Technician, or a Coast Guard Health Services Technician.

109 1. The composition of the workgroup and the provision of  
110 administrative support to the workgroup must be as provided in  
111 paragraphs (2) (a) and (b). The workgroup shall ensure that the  
112 award of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
113 does not impair an accredited program’s ability to comply with  
114 the requirements identified in s. 464.019.

115 2. The workgroup shall provide its recommendations  
116 regarding the process for awarding postsecondary credit or

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117 career education clock hours to the Board of Governors and the  
118 State Board of Education by December 1, 2023, for approval at  
119 the next meeting of each board to allow for adequate public  
120 notice.

121 3.a. Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by  
122 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the  
123 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review  
124 of the military training and education received by individuals  
125 who served as an Army Combat Medic Specialist, a Navy or Fleet  
126 Marine Force Hospital Corpsman, an Air Force or Space Force  
127 Aerospace Medical Service Technician, or a Coast Guard Health  
128 Services Technician for postsecondary course equivalencies and  
129 the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
130 that must be awarded for that training and education.

131 b. Within 1 year after such approval, the Articulation  
132 Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of  
133 postsecondary course equivalencies, and the minimum  
134 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must  
135 be awarded in an accredited program for such military training  
136 and education. The list must be updated annually. The Board of  
137 Governors and the State Board of Education shall adopt the list  
138 approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee at their  
139 next respective meetings. For the purpose of statewide  
140 application, postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum  
141 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must  
142 be awarded in an accredited program for such military training  
143 and education must be delineated by the State Board of Education  
144 and the Board of Governors in the statewide articulation  
145 agreement required by s. 1007.23(1).

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146       4. State universities, Florida College System institutions,  
147 and career centers shall award postsecondary credit or career  
148 education clock hours for such military training and education  
149 based on the list adopted pursuant to sub-subparagraph 3.b. if  
150 the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward  
151 the student's degree or certificate and may award additional  
152 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours as  
153 appropriate. Postsecondary credit or career education clock  
154 hours awarded under this subsection are transferable from one  
155 state university, Florida College System institution, or career  
156 center to another.

157       Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.