

By Senator Lee

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education for certain
3 military personnel; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.;
4 requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with the Chancellors of the
6 State University System and the Florida College
7 System, to create a uniform system for the award of
8 postsecondary college credit to certain servicemembers
9 and veterans of the United States military; providing
10 the requirements for such uniform system; requiring
11 public postsecondary institutions to participate in
12 the uniform system; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.;
13 requiring specified postsecondary institutions to
14 waive the transcript fee for active duty members of
15 the Armed Forces of the United States and certain
16 veterans; requiring specified postsecondary
17 institutions to provide a report to the Board of
18 Governors and the State Board of Education; requiring
19 the Board of Governors and the State Board of
20 Education to adopt regulations and rules,
21 respectively; providing an effective date.

22
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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25 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
26 to read:

27 1004.096 College credit for military experience and
28 training and education courses.-

29 (1) In consultation with the Chancellors of the State

20-01074-19

2019442__

30 University System and the Florida College System, the Board of
31 Governors shall adopt regulations and the State Board of
32 Education shall adopt rules that create a uniform system that
33 enables ~~enable~~ eligible servicemembers or veterans of the United
34 States Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public
35 postsecondary educational institutions for experience and
36 college-level training and education acquired in the military.

37 (2) The regulations and rules shall include, but are not
38 limited to:

39 (a) Procedures for the ~~credential~~ evaluation of military
40 credentials and experience and the award of academic college
41 credit based on such credentials and experience, including, but
42 not limited to, equivalency and alignment of military coursework
43 and experience with appropriate college courses and, course
44 descriptions.

45 (b)1. A list of courses for which academic college credit
46 shall be awarded for specified military credentials and
47 experience. Academic college credit must be offered for required
48 coursework based on military credentials and experience, when
49 appropriate.

50 2. The State Board of Education and Board of Governors must
51 use the American Council on Education's "Guide to the Evaluation
52 of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services," or a similar
53 resource if such guide is discontinued, when determining which
54 military credentials and experience shall be applied toward the
55 award of academic college credit, ~~type and amount of college~~
56 credit that may be awarded, and transfer of credit.

57 (c) A policy for the mandatory transfer of academic college
58 credits awarded pursuant to this section between public

20-01074-19

2019442__

59 postsecondary educational institutions.

60 (d) The minimum number of academic college credits each
61 public postsecondary educational institution must offer for
62 qualifying military credentials and experience; however, a
63 public postsecondary educational institution may offer
64 additional academic credits for such credentials and experience,
65 when appropriate.

66 (3) Each public postsecondary educational institution must
67 participate in the uniform system created under this section.

68 Section 2. Subsection (16) is added to section 1009.26,
69 Florida Statutes, to read:

70 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

71 (16) (a) A state university, Florida College System
72 institution, career center operated by a school district under
73 s. 1001.44, or charter technical career center shall waive the
74 transcript fee for a person who is an active duty member of the
75 Armed Forces of the United States or an honorably discharged
76 veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States.

77 (b) Each state university, Florida College System
78 institution, career center operated by a school district under
79 s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to
80 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education,
81 respectively, the number and value of fee waivers granted
82 annually under this subsection.

83 (c) The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education
84 shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to administer
85 this subsection.

86 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.