

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 Department of  
6 Veterans' Affairs, to create a process for the award  
7 of uniform postsecondary credit or career education  
8 clock hours to certain servicemembers and veterans of  
9 the United States Armed Forces; requiring the  
10 Articulation Coordinating Committee to convene a  
11 workgroup by a specified date; providing membership  
12 and duties of the workgroup; providing administrative  
13 support for the workgroup; requiring the workgroup to  
14 provide recommendations to the Board of Governors and  
15 State Board of Education by a specified date;  
16 requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of  
17 Education to approve such recommendations; requiring  
18 the Articulation Coordinating Committee to review  
19 courses taken and occupations held by individuals  
20 during their service in the military for postsecondary  
21 credit or career education clock hours; requiring the  
22 Articulation Coordinating Committee to approve and the  
23 Board of Governors and State Board of Education to  
24 adopt a specified list within a specified timeframe;  
25 requiring certain postsecondary institutions to award

26 uniform credit or career education clock hours for  
 27 specified courses taken and occupations held by  
 28 individuals during their service in the military;  
 29 authorizing the award of additional credits or career  
 30 education clock hours; requiring delineation of credit  
 31 and career education clock hours in the statewide  
 32 articulation agreement; requiring certain credits and  
 33 career education clock hours to transfer between  
 34 specified postsecondary institutions; amending s.  
 35 1009.26, F.S.; requiring specified postsecondary  
 36 institutions to waive the transcript fee for active  
 37 duty members of the United States Armed Forces,  
 38 certain veterans, and their spouses and dependents;  
 39 providing reporting requirements; providing for rules  
 40 and regulations; providing an effective date.

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

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44 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 45 to read:

46 1004.096 College credit for military training and  
 47 education courses.—

48 (1) In consultation with the Department of Veterans'  
 49 Affairs, the Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the  
 50 State Board of Education shall adopt rules that create a process

51 that enables ~~enable~~ eligible servicemembers or veterans of the  
52 United States Armed Forces to earn uniform postsecondary  
53 ~~academic college~~ credit across all Florida ~~at~~ public  
54 postsecondary educational institutions for college-level  
55 training and education acquired in the military. The regulations  
56 and rules shall include procedures for credential evaluation and  
57 the uniform award of postsecondary ~~academic college~~ credit or  
58 career education clock hours, including, but not limited to,  
59 equivalency and alignment of military coursework with  
60 appropriate postsecondary ~~college~~ courses and, ~~course~~  
61 descriptions, ~~type and amount of college credit that may be~~  
62 awarded, ~~and transfer of credit.~~

63 (2) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene  
64 a workgroup by July 15, 2020, which is responsible for  
65 developing a process for determining postsecondary course  
66 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career  
67 education clock hours that must be awarded for courses taken and  
68 occupations held by individuals during their service in the  
69 military.

70 (a) The workgroup shall be composed of the following 13  
71 members:

72 1. The chair of the Articulation Coordinating Committee,  
73 or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair.

74 2. Four members representing academic affairs  
75 administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by

76 | the chair of the Board of Governors.

77 |       3. Four members representing academic affairs  
78 | administrators and faculty from Florida College System  
79 | institutions, appointed by the chair of the State Board of  
80 | Education.

81 |       4. Two members representing faculty from career centers,  
82 | appointed by the State Board of Education.

83 |       5. Two members representing veterans, appointed by the  
84 | executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

85 |       (b) The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
86 | administrative support for the workgroup.

87 |       (c) The workgroup shall establish a process for  
88 | prioritizing and determining postsecondary course equivalencies  
89 | and the minimum credit or career education clock hours that must  
90 | be awarded for courses taken and occupations held by individuals  
91 | during their service in the military. The workgroup shall  
92 | provide recommendations to the Board of Governors and the State  
93 | Board of Education by December 1, 2020, for approval at the next  
94 | meeting of each board which allows for adequate public notice.

95 |       (d) Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by  
96 | the Board of Governors and State Board of Education, the  
97 | Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review  
98 | of courses taken and occupations held by individuals during  
99 | their service in the military for postsecondary course  
100 | equivalencies and the minimum credit or career education clock

101 hours that must be awarded in accordance with the approved  
102 process.

103 (e) Within one year after approval of the workgroup's  
104 recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of  
105 Education pursuant to paragraph (c), the Articulation  
106 Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of  
107 postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum credit or  
108 career education clock hours that must be awarded for courses  
109 taken and occupations held by individuals during their service  
110 in the military. The list must be updated annually. The Board of  
111 Governors and the State Board of Education shall timely adopt  
112 the list approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee at  
113 the next meeting of each board which allows for adequate public  
114 notice. For the purpose of statewide application, postsecondary  
115 course equivalencies and the minimum credit or career education  
116 clock hours that must be awarded for courses taken and  
117 occupations held by individuals during their service in the  
118 military shall be delineated by the State Board of Education and  
119 the Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement  
120 required by s. 1007.23(1).

121 (f) State universities, Florida College System  
122 institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit  
123 or career education clock hours for courses taken and  
124 occupations held by individuals during their service in the  
125 military based on the list adopted by the Board of Governors and

126 | the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (e) if the  
 127 | credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward the  
 128 | student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award  
 129 | additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
 130 | if appropriate. Credit and career education clock hours awarded  
 131 | in accordance with minimum credit and clock hour requirements  
 132 | are guaranteed to transfer to other state universities, Florida  
 133 | College System institutions, and career centers as if the credit  
 134 | or clock hours were earned at the receiving institution.

135 |       Section 2. Subsection (17) is added to section 1009.26,  
 136 | Florida Statutes, to read:

137 |       1009.26 Fee waivers.—

138 |       (17) (a) Each state university, Florida College System  
 139 | institution, career center operated by a school district under  
 140 | s. 1001.44, and charter career center shall waive the transcript  
 141 | fee for a person who is an active duty member or an honorably  
 142 | discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces and his or  
 143 | her spouse and dependents.

144 |       (b) Each state university, Florida College System  
 145 | institution, career center operated by a school district under  
 146 | s. 1001.44, and charter career center shall report to the Board  
 147 | of Governors and the State Board of Education, respectively, the  
 148 | number and value of fee waivers granted annually under this  
 149 | subsection.

150 |       (c) The Board of Governors and the State Board of

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151 | Education shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to  
152 | administer this subsection.

153 | Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.