

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 to create a uniform system for the award of
 6 postsecondary college credit to certain servicemembers
 7 and veterans of the United States military; providing
 8 the requirements for such uniform system; requiring
 9 public postsecondary institutions to participate in
 10 the uniform system; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.;
 11 requiring specified postsecondary institutions to
 12 waive the transcript fee for active duty members of
 13 the Armed Forces of the United States, certain
 14 veterans, and their spouses and dependents; providing
 15 an effective date.

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

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 19 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
 20 to read:

21 1004.096 College credit for military experience and
 22 training and education courses.—

23 (1) In consultation with the Chancellors of the State
 24 University System and the Florida College System, the Board of
 25 Governors shall adopt regulations and the State Board of

26 Education shall adopt rules that create a uniform system that
 27 enables ~~enable~~ eligible servicemembers or veterans of the United
 28 States Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public
 29 postsecondary educational institutions for experience and
 30 college-level training and education acquired in the military.

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

33 (a) Procedures for the ~~credential~~ evaluation of military
 34 credentials and experience and the award of academic college
 35 credit based on such credentials and experience, including, but
 36 not limited to, equivalency and alignment of military coursework
 37 and experience with appropriate college courses and, course
 38 descriptions.

39 (b)1. A list of courses for which academic college credit
 40 shall be awarded for specified military credentials and
 41 experience. Academic college credit must be offered for required
 42 coursework based on military credentials and experience, when
 43 appropriate.

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

51 ~~credit.~~

52 (c) A policy for the mandatory transfer of academic
 53 college credits awarded pursuant to this section between public
 54 postsecondary educational institutions.

55 (d) The minimum number of academic college credits each
 56 public postsecondary educational institution must offer for
 57 qualifying military credentials and experience; however, a
 58 public postsecondary educational institution may offer
 59 additional academic credits for such credentials and experience,
 60 when appropriate.

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

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

65 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

66 (16) (a) A state university, Florida College System
 67 institution, career center operated by a school district under
 68 s. 1001.44, or charter technical career center shall waive the
 69 transcript fee for a person who is an active duty member or an
 70 honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United
 71 States and his or her spouse and dependents.

72 (b) Each state university, Florida College System
 73 institution, career center operated by a school district under
 74 s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to
 75 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education,

76 | respectively, the number and value of fee waivers granted
77 | annually under this subsection.

78 | (c) The Board of Governors and the State Board of
79 | Education shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to
80 | administer this subsection.

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