

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 500

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides certain educational benefits for veterans who are students at La. public colleges and universities

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3351(E), relative to the powers, duties, and functions of public
3 postsecondary education management boards; to provide for the award of
4 educational credits to a student at a public college or university who is also a veteran
5 for courses that are part of the student's military training or service and that meet
6 certain academic standards; to limit tuition and mandatory attendance fee amounts
7 applicable to a student who is not a resident of the state and who is a veteran; to
8 provide definitions; to provide for implementation, including for the adoption of
9 certain policies and necessary rules, regulations, and procedures; to provide an
10 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:3351(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §3351. General powers, duties, and functions of college and university boards

14 * * *

15 E.(1) In addition to any other power, duty, and function authorized by this
16 Section, each board shall adopt, by not later than January 1, 2012, a policy requiring
17 each institution under the board's supervision and management to award educational
18 credits to a student at the institution who is also a veteran for courses that are part of
19 the student's military training or service and that meet the standards of the American
20 Council on Education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit.

1 (2) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, no student
2 at a Louisiana public college or university who is not a resident of the state and who
3 is a veteran shall be charged or required to pay any tuition or mandatory attendance
4 fee in an amount in excess of that which is charged students who are residents of the
5 state.

6 (3) Each board shall adopt necessary rules, regulations, and procedures to
7 implement the provisions of this Subsection effective beginning with the 2012-2013
8 academic year and continuing thereafter.

9 (4) For the purposes of this Subsection, the word "veteran" means a citizen
10 of the United States or a resident alien who has been separated under honorable
11 conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having
12 served on active duty for not less than one hundred eighty-one consecutive days or
13 has been separated by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty, or
14 who has met the minimum active duty requirement as defined by Code of Federal
15 Regulations, Title 38, Section 3.12a, or who has active military service certified
16 under Section 401, Public Law 95-202. To qualify as a veteran, the person's active
17 military service must be certified by the United States Secretary of Defense as active
18 military service and his discharge under honorable conditions must be issued by the
19 secretary.

20 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
22 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
24 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Edwards

HB No. 500

Abstract: Relative to veterans who are students at La. public colleges and universities, provides for the award of educational credits for courses that are part of the student's military service and that meet certain academic standards. Also limits tuition and mandatory attendance fee charges for a student at a La. public college or university who is not a resident of the state and who is a veteran to not more than amounts charged La. residents. Requires each public postsecondary education management board to adopt certain policies (by not later than Jan. 1, 2012) as well as rules, regulations, and procedures to implement proposed law beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year continuing thereafter.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary education management board to adopt (by not later than Jan. 1, 2012) a policy requiring each institution under the board's supervision and management to award educational credits to a student who is also a veteran for courses that are part of the student's military training or service and that meet the standards of the American Council on Education (or equivalent standards) for awarding academic credit.

Also specifies (notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary) that no student at a La. public college or university who is not a resident of the state and who is a veteran shall be charged or required to pay any tuition or mandatory attendance fee in an amount in excess of that which is charged students who are residents of the state.

Defines the word "veteran" for purposes of proposed law. Also requires each board to adopt necessary rules, regulations, and procedures to implement proposed law effective beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year and continuing thereafter.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3351(E))