

HOUSE No. 4978

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 6, 2022.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents (Senate, No. 2559), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4978.

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

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Text of an amendment, recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, to the Senate Bill relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents (Senate, No. 2559). July 6, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:–

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 15MMMMMM the following 4 sections:-

3 Section 15NNNNNN. The governor shall annually set apart June 14, the anniversary of
4 the founding of the United States Army, in recognition of the distinguished patriotic services
5 rendered by that organization, and by the citizens of the commonwealth who so gallantly served,
6 and shall issue a proclamation recommending that the day be observed by the people in the
7 display of the flag and in appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and
8 sacrifices of the citizens of the commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the
9 defense of the United States.

10 Section 15OOOOOO. The governor shall annually set apart September 18, the
11 anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force, in recognition of its distinguished
12 history of service as a projector of American air power in support and defense of the nation, and
13 by the citizens of the commonwealth who so gallantly served, and shall issue a proclamation
14 recommending that the day be observed by the people in the display of the flag and in

15 appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and sacrifices of the citizens of the
16 commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the defense of the United States.

17 Section 15PPPPPP. The governor shall annually set apart December 13, the anniversary
18 of the founding of the National Guard, in recognition of its role as an operational reserve of the
19 United States Army and Air Force, providing ready, well-equipped personnel and equipment to
20 support the federal military mission when called upon by the President and the governor of the
21 commonwealth to respond to domestic emergencies, and by the citizen soldiers and airmen of the
22 commonwealth who have unfailingly answered the call of duty, and shall issue a proclamation
23 recommending that the day be observed by the people in the display of the flag and in
24 appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and sacrifices of the citizens of the
25 commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the defense of the United States.

26 Section 15QQQQQQ. The governor shall annually set apart August 4, the anniversary of
27 the founding of the United States Coast Guard, in recognition of its distinguished history and
28 seagoing service, and shall issue a proclamation recommending that the day be observed by the
29 people in the display of the flag and in appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the
30 services and sacrifices of the citizens of the commonwealth who have served and continue to
31 serve in the defense of the United States.

32 SECTION 2. The first paragraph of section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as
33 appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clause (t) and inserting
34 in place thereof the following clause:- (t) issue regulations defining resident of the
35 commonwealth and proof of the same for the purpose of admission and tuition expenses of
36 public institutions of higher education and prepare uniform proofs of residence to be used by all

37 public institutions; provided, however, that insofar as the Massachusetts Maritime Academy is
38 designated a regional maritime academy by the United States Maritime Administration, residents
39 of the states comprising the designated region and attending the Massachusetts Maritime
40 Academy shall be considered Massachusetts residents for the purposes of admission and tuition;
41 and provided further, that a person who is: (i) a member of the armed forces of the United States
42 and stationed in the commonwealth on active duty pursuant to military orders; (ii) the spouse of a
43 person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and stationed in the
44 commonwealth pursuant to military orders; or (iii) an unemancipated person whose parent or
45 guardian is a member of the armed forces of the United States and stationed in the
46 commonwealth pursuant to military orders, shall be considered a Massachusetts resident for the
47 purposes of admission and tuition.

48 SECTION 3. Said chapter 15A is hereby further amended by inserting after section 19½
49 the following section:-

50 Section 19¾. A person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and
51 stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an
52 in-state student. Such a person shall not lose classification as an in-state student due to being
53 transferred on military orders, being honorably discharged or retiring while the person is residing
54 in the commonwealth after their acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state
55 system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or post-graduate
56 degree.

57 The spouse of a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and
58 stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an

59 in-state student. Such a spouse shall not lose classification as an in-state student due to the
60 member being transferred on military orders, being honorably discharged, retiring or dying while
61 the spouse is residing in the commonwealth after the spouse's acceptance for matriculation at a
62 constituent unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading to an
63 associate, bachelor or post-graduate degree.

64 An unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces of
65 the United States and stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled
66 to classification as an in-state student. Such a person shall not lose classification as an in-state
67 student due to their parent or guardian being transferred on military orders, being honorably
68 discharged, retiring or dying while: (i) the person is in continuous attendance toward the degree
69 for which the person is currently enrolled; or (ii) the person is residing in the commonwealth
70 after their acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state system of higher
71 education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or post-graduate degree.

72 SECTION 4. Chapter 23K of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
73 section 20 the following section:-

74 Section 20A. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
75 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

76 "Limited slot machine establishment", the premises owned or leased by a veterans'
77 organization for use by its members in good standing.

78 "Limited slot machine license", a gaming license issued by the commission that permits a
79 veterans' organization to operate a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than
80 5 slot machines at a limited slot machine establishment.

81 “Limited slot machine licensee” or “licensee”, a veterans’ organization that holds a
82 limited slot machine license for its limited slot machine establishment.

83 “Local licensing authority”, the local licensing authority in the city or town in which the
84 limited slot machine establishment is located.

85 “Veterans’ organization”, any veterans’ organization that is: (i) incorporated by the
86 Congress of the United States; and (ii) included in section 4E of chapter 9.

87 (b) The commission may issue a limited slot machine license to veterans’ organizations
88 in the commonwealth.

89 A limited slot machine license shall only be issued to a veterans’ organization that: (i) has
90 been organized and actively functioning as a veterans’ organization for not less than 5 years prior
91 to being issued a license; (ii) has received the approval of the local licensing authority; and (iii)
92 has been deemed suitable and qualified pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission
93 pursuant to subsection (l).

94 No limited slot machine license issued to a veterans’ organization pursuant to this section
95 shall be transferred or assigned.

96 (c) A limited slot machine license issued by the commission pursuant to this section may
97 be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the commission or upon written request to the
98 commission by the local licensing authority. The suspension or revocation of a license issued
99 pursuant to this section may be appealed by the limited slot machine licensee to the full
100 commission, and the commission shall hear the appeal on the record. The decision rendered by
101 the commission after the hearing shall be final and the licensee shall not be entitled to further

102 review; provided, however, that in the case of a license revocation, the licensee shall be entitled
103 to reapply for a license not less than 5 years from the date in which the final decision of the
104 commission was issued.

105 (d) A limited slot machine licensee shall limit the promotion and operation of, and access
106 to, slot machines to members in good standing of the veterans' organization; provided, that no
107 member of the veterans' organization holding a limited slot machine license shall receive
108 remuneration in any form for time or effort devoted to the promotion or operation of the slot
109 machines. No member of the general public shall be permitted access to any slot machine in a
110 limited slot machine establishment.

111 (e) The profits of any slot machines shall be the property of the limited slot machine
112 licensee, and shall be used for charitable, fraternal or civic purposes, including, but not limited
113 to, veterans' benefits.

114 (f) A limited slot machine license issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for a
115 period of 5 years. The commission shall establish procedures for application and renewal and
116 may establish a fee for application or renewal not to exceed \$500. Application and renewal fees
117 shall be deposited into the Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

118 (g) Each licensee shall keep accurate records and books showing: (i) the total amount of
119 all monies deposited by members in good standing of the veterans' organization who played the
120 slot machines located in the limited slot machine establishment; (ii) the expenses incurred; and
121 (iii) the name and address of each person receiving greater than \$100 in winnings in a 24-hour
122 period. A separate checking account shall be kept of receipts and expenditures. Money for
123 expenses shall be withdrawn only by checks having preprinted consecutive numbers and made

124 payable to a specific person or corporation. No check shall be made payable to cash. All monies
125 expended for said charitable, fraternal or civic purposes shall be duly and accurately recorded as
126 to specific amounts expended and the purposes for which said amounts were expended. Proceeds
127 from the operation of the slot machines shall be kept in a separate bank account and the licensee
128 shall file an annual report on or before December 31 of each year of the charitable, fraternal and
129 civic disbursements made during the preceding year with the commission and the local licensing
130 authority in such form as the commission may prescribe. Such annual report shall be a public
131 record. The commission and the local licensing authority, or their duly authorized agents or
132 representatives, shall at all times have access to the limited slot machine establishment, as well
133 as the records and books of any licensee for the purpose of examining and checking the same.

134 (h) Each licensee shall file a return with the commission, on a form prepared by the
135 commission, and shall pay therewith a tax of 5 per cent of the gross profits derived from the slot
136 machines located in the limited slot machine establishment, which shall be deposited into the
137 Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

138 (i) No person under 21 years of age shall be permitted in that portion of any building or
139 premises of the licensee during such time as a slot machine is being played.

140 (j) A limited slot machine establishment shall keep conspicuously posted on their
141 premises a notice containing the following statement: "If you or someone you know has a
142 gambling problem and wants help, call the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health on the
143 Safer Gaming Education Line at 1-800-426-1234 or the Massachusetts Department of Public
144 Health helpline at 1-800-327-5050."

145 (k) Limited slot machine licensees shall only acquire slot machines from a person
146 licensed as a gaming vendor under section 31.

147 (l) The commission shall, consistent with the public objectives of this chapter established
148 in section 1, promulgate regulations for the implementation, administration and enforcement of
149 this section including, without limitation, regulations that prescribe: (i) the method and form of
150 application that an applicant for licensure shall follow and complete before consideration by the
151 commission; (ii) the information to be furnished by an applicant for a limited slot machine
152 license or for the renewal of a limited slot machine license; (iii) suitability standards for
153 applicants for licensure pursuant to this section; (iv) the criteria for evaluation of the application
154 for a limited slot machine license and qualifications for licensure pursuant to this section; (v) the
155 information to be furnished by a veterans' organization relating to the members of the veterans'
156 organization tasked with managing the slot machines; (vi) criteria for eligibility for licensure
157 under this section; (vii) conditions on the operation and control of a limited slot machine
158 establishment; and (viii) grounds and procedures for the revocation or suspension of a limited
159 slot machine license.

160 SECTION 5. Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
161 section 67A the following section:-

162 Section 67B. There shall be a Massachusetts medal of fidelity to be presented to the next
163 of kin of a service member or veteran who died as the result of combat-related post-traumatic
164 stress disorder or a service-connected disease, condition or injury related to the exposure to
165 harmful toxins, herbicides, agents or materials, where the exposure occurred while serving in the
166 armed forces of the United States, active or reserve components, or the Massachusetts national

167 guard. A service member must have entered military service or state active duty from the
168 commonwealth, have been a resident of the commonwealth at the time of death or have been a
169 member of the Massachusetts national guard at the time of death. To be eligible, a service
170 member or veteran must have served after December 6, 1941. The adjutant general or designee
171 and 2 field grade officers of the armed forces of the commonwealth detailed by the commander-
172 in-chief shall constitute a commission to make recommendations to the commander-in-chief for
173 the awarding of the Massachusetts medal of fidelity.

174 SECTION 6. Said chapter 33 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 137 the
175 following section:-

176 Section 137A. (a) For the purposes of this section the following words shall, unless the
177 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

178 “Availability of seats”, vacancies that exist in a course after the enrollment of all tuition-
179 paying students and all students who are enrolled under any scholarship or tuition waiver
180 provisions.

181 “Dependents”, immediate family members of a member who are enrolled in the Defense
182 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System in connection with the member.

183 “Member”, a Massachusetts army or air national guard member eligible pursuant to
184 subsection (d).

185 (b) There shall be a Massachusetts national guard family education program. The
186 program shall be administered by the military division and shall allow qualified members
187 pursuant to subsection (d) to transfer tuition benefits pursuant to section 137 to their dependents.

188 (c)(1) The Massachusetts national guard family education program may issue a certificate
189 of exemption from the matriculation fee and tuition to specified dependents of members enrolled
190 in a program at any public institution of higher education pursuant to section 5 of chapter 15A
191 and who are qualified as provided in this section, the cost of which shall be borne by the
192 commonwealth. The credit total of tuition benefits shall not exceed 130 semester hours per
193 member, including hours transferred to a member's dependents.

194 (2) The military division shall maintain a record of tuition and fee credit totals of each
195 member, including semester hours per member.

196 (3) Dependents shall use their specified credit allotment within 10 years of member
197 separation from service or by the age of 26, whichever date is later.

198 (d) Unless a member has more than 20 years of military service, to be eligible for the
199 program the member shall: (i) extend their current service obligation or reenlist for national
200 guard education assistance program benefits pursuant to section 137 after completing their initial
201 6-year military service obligation to the Massachusetts army or air national guard; (ii) be eligible
202 to serve an additional 6-year enlistment from the date of extension or reenlistment; (iii) be in
203 good standing and a satisfactory participant in the Massachusetts army or air national guard; and
204 (iv) have not previously used the maximum tuition benefits pursuant to section 137.

205 (e) Members may split their national guard education assistance program tuition benefits,
206 pursuant to section 137, between dependents. The combined total of semester hours for members
207 and their dependents shall not exceed 130 semester hours total.

208 (f) Enrollment of a dependent in a course at any public institution of higher education
209 shall be subject to the availability of seats.

210 SECTION 7. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
211 section 6A the following section:-

212 Section 6B. (a) As used in this section, “military-connected student” shall mean a student
213 who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian: (i) is in the active military service of
214 the United States; or (ii) full-time status during active service with the National Guard of any
215 state.

216 (b) A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the
217 commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to, or is pending transfer to, a military
218 installation within the commonwealth shall be deemed a resident pupil of the applicable school
219 district for the purposes of enrollment. A school district shall permit a military-connected student
220 to enroll preliminarily by remote registration without charge and shall not require a parent or
221 guardian of the military-connected student or the military-connected student to physically appear
222 at a location within the district to register the student; provided, however, that a parent or
223 guardian of a military-connected student shall present evidence of military orders that the parent
224 or guardian will be stationed in the commonwealth during the current or following school year.
225 To enroll a student, the parent or guardian shall use an address that: (i) is within the school
226 district where the military-connected student is to be enrolled; and (ii) is either: (A) a temporary
227 on-base billeting facility; (B) a purchased or leased home or apartment; or (C) federal
228 government or public-private venture off-base military housing. Proof of residency shall not be
229 required at the time of the remote registration but shall be required not later than 10 days of the
230 military-connected student’s attendance in the school district.

231 SECTION 8. The first paragraph of section 38G of said chapter 71, as appearing in the
232 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Board” the
233 following definition:-

234 “Military spouse certificate”, a license to teach that the commissioner of education may
235 issue to a person who: (i) is the spouse of a service member in the armed forces of the United
236 States, a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard of another
237 state, serving in the commonwealth or in a bordering state while residing in the commonwealth;
238 and (ii) holds a valid teaching certificate from another state in good standing but has not satisfied
239 the certification testing requirements in this section. A military spouse certificate shall be valid
240 for not less than 3 years. Service under a military spouse certificate shall be counted as service in
241 acquiring professional teacher status, contingent upon the teacher passing the applicable
242 certification tests necessary for acquiring professional teacher status.

243 SECTION 9. Said section 38G of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
244 amended by inserting after the word “temporary,” in line 63, the following words:- military
245 spouse.

246 SECTION 10. Section 94 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
247 adding the following subsection:-

248 (u) For the purposes of this section, an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is
249 a member of the armed forces of the United States shall be considered a resident of the
250 commonwealth and a resident of the applicable school district if: (i) the member is being
251 relocated to or within the commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to or is pending
252 transfer to a military installation in the commonwealth; or (ii) the unemancipated person was

253 previously enrolled in high school in the commonwealth and does not reside in the
254 commonwealth due to the person's parent's or guardian's military deployment or transfer.

255 SECTION 11. Said chapter 71 is hereby further amended by adding the following
256 section:-

257 Section 99. (a) For the purposes of this section, "military-connected student" shall mean a
258 student who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is: (i) a current, reserve or
259 former member of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps,
260 United States Coast Guard, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, United States Air Force, Air
261 National Guard or Army National Guard; or (ii) a member of a military or reserve force under
262 clause (i) who was killed in the line of duty.

263 (b) The department shall designate a school as a Purple Star Campus if the school applies
264 and qualifies for the designation under this section.

265 (c) To qualify as a Purple Star Campus, a school shall:

266 (i) designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties shall include: (A)
267 identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school; (B) serving as the point of contact
268 between the school and military-connected students and their families; (C) determining
269 appropriate school services available to military-connected students; and (D) assisting in
270 coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students;

271 (ii) maintain on the school internet website an easily accessible webpage that includes
272 resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:
273 (A) school relocation, enrollment and registration, including the transferring of records; (B)

274 academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school; and (C)
275 counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled at the
276 school;

277 (iii) maintain a transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists
278 military-connected students in transitioning into the school;

279 (iv) offer professional development for staff members on issues related to military-
280 connected students; and

281 (v) offer at least 1 of the following initiatives: (A) a resolution showing support for
282 military-connected students and their families; (B) recognition of the Month of the Military
283 Child or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by the school; or (C) a partnership
284 with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active-duty military members to
285 volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.

286 (d) To comply with subsection (c), a school may partner with the school district to
287 provide: (i) an internet website required under said subsection (c) if the school does not have an
288 internet website; (ii) professional development required under said subsection (c); or (iii) an
289 initiative required under said subsection (c).

290 (e) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this
291 section.

292 SECTION 12. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
293 following section:-

294 Section 244. (a)(1) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans'
295 services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall develop, and update
296 as necessary, written educational materials about the health effects associated with chemicals
297 identified at open burn pits in overseas military deployments. Such written educational materials
298 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) symptoms associated with exposure to open burn pits
299 during overseas military deployment; (ii) treatment of conditions associated with exposure to
300 open burn pits during overseas military deployment; (iii) information regarding the U.S.
301 Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including
302 eligibility requirements, deployment locations and dates and resources that assist with the
303 registration process; and (iv) contact information for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'
304 Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

305 (2) The commissioner shall monitor the most current published epidemiological studies
306 and recommendations, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. section 527, and developments in the study and
307 treatment of conditions associated with exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused
308 by open burn pits.

309 (3) The commissioner, in consultation with appropriate professional licensing boards and
310 professional membership associations, shall ensure the information pursuant to this section is
311 made available to all appropriate licensed health care providers in the commonwealth.

312 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans' services and
313 the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare and update as necessary
314 an informational pamphlet that shall include, but not be limited to, the health effects of exposure
315 to open burn pits, how to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne

316 Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and resources that can assist with the registration process.
317 The commissioner of veterans' services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national
318 guard shall distribute the informational pamphlet to organizations chosen by the commissioner of
319 veterans' services and adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, including veteran
320 service offices and veteran organizations. Veteran service officers shall receive training to assist
321 with the implementation of this section.

322 (c) The informational pamphlet required in subsection (b) shall be made available on the
323 department's website and the department of veterans' services' website.

324 SECTION 13. Section 1B of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as amended by section 48
325 of chapter 39 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out subsections (d) and
326 (e) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

327 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of
328 public health and each of the boards of registration and examination under the supervision of the
329 commissioner shall, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for certification
330 or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification to an applicant: (i) who is certified
331 or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose spouse is a member of the armed
332 forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to the
333 commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany the person's spouse to the
334 commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
335 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
336 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services
337 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were

338 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
339 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for
340 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
341 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
342 information to make the determination, specifying the needed information and outstanding
343 materials.

344 (e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of the
345 division of occupational licensure and each of the boards of registration and examination under
346 the supervision of the commissioner shall, upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence by an
347 applicant for certification or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification for the
348 applicant: (i) who is certified or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose
349 spouse is a member of the armed forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of
350 a military transfer to the commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany a spouse
351 to the commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
352 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
353 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services
354 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were
355 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
356 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for
357 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
358 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
359 information to make the determination, specifying the needed information and outstanding
360 materials.

361 SECTION 14. Said chapter 112 is hereby amended by inserting after section 84C the
362 following section:-

363 Section 84D. Every licensed funeral director, or their agent or servant, before an
364 agreement as to the price of the merchandise and service is made, shall: (i) make available to all
365 potential clients information regarding funeral and burial benefits for veterans pursuant to
366 sections 7 and 8 of chapter 115; and (ii) give or cause to be given to a client, a written statement
367 verifying that the funeral director, or their agent or servant, made such information available to
368 the potential client. The written statement pursuant to clause (ii) shall be signed by the funeral
369 director, or their agent or servant, and the potential client before an agreement as to the price of
370 the merchandise and service is made.

371 SECTION 15. Chapter 115 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
372 section 2C the following section:-

373 Section 2D. (a)(1) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall make information on
374 civilian licensure and certification opportunities available to members of the armed forces of the
375 United States, members of the armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans. The information
376 shall be made available in a format that allows the member or veteran to evaluate the suitability
377 of member's or veteran's military training and skills to the corresponding requirements of
378 civilian licenses and certifications available in the commonwealth and shall include, but not be
379 limited to, information on: (i) the civilian occupational equivalents of military or other
380 occupational specialties based on the corresponding branch of the military; (ii) civilian license or
381 certification requirements, including examination requirements; (iii) the availability and

382 opportunities for use of educational benefits; (iv) corresponding training; and (v) continuing
383 education opportunities that provide a pathway to licensure or certification.

384 (2) The information required under this section shall be made available by the
385 commissioner to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the armed forces
386 of the commonwealth and veterans in a manner consistent with the Transition Goals Plans
387 Success program administered under the Transition Assistance Program pursuant to 10 U.S.C.
388 1144.

389 (b) The commissioner shall, for purposes of providing educational assistance for
390 licensure and certification to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the
391 armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans, and in compliance with national security and
392 state and federal privacy requirements, compile information related to military training and
393 skills, including, but not limited to: (i) course training curricula and syllabi; (ii) levels of military
394 advancement; (iii) professional skill development; and (iv) specific civilian occupational
395 equivalents of military or other occupational specialties. To implement this section, the
396 commissioner shall make such information available to the division of occupational licensure,
397 the executive office of public safety and security, the department of public health, the executive
398 office of labor and workforce development, the registry of motor vehicles and any other agency
399 approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall make the information publicly available
400 on the department's website.

401 SECTION 16. Said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by adding the following 2
402 sections:-

403 Section 16. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of public health
404 and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall contact all members of the
405 Massachusetts national guard and all known veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces
406 residing in the commonwealth who may be eligible to participate in the U.S. Department of
407 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including, but not limited, those
408 who may have served in: (i) Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or
409 Operation New Dawn; (ii) Djibouti, Africa, on or after September 11, 2001; (iii) Afghanistan, on
410 or after September 11, 2001; (iv) Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm; or (v) in
411 the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990. Veterans or service
412 members contacted shall be encouraged to join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'
413 Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and shall be provided with contact information for
414 the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and a
415 copy of the informational pamphlet created by the commissioner of public health pursuant to
416 subsection (b) of section 244 of chapter 111.

417 (b) The commissioner shall create a database of self-identifying service members and
418 veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits, which shall include the name, address,
419 electronic address, phone number, location and period of service, and other information as
420 deemed necessary. Such information shall be used only for the purposes of communicating
421 information about exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits to
422 service members and veterans. The database, materials or other information shall be confidential
423 and privileged, shall not be subject to chapter 66, or clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter
424 4 and shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in any private
425 civil action.

426 Section 17. The adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard shall request that
427 the periodic health assessment for members of the Massachusetts national guard determine
428 whether the guard member was deployed to a location that would make the guard member
429 eligible to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open
430 Burn Pit Registry, and whether the guard member was exposed to open burn pits during their
431 deployment to said location. The adjutant general shall request that any guard member who
432 during their periodic health assessment is identified as having been potentially exposed to open
433 burn pits during a deployment is automatically registered to participate in the U.S. Department of
434 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry.

435 SECTION 17. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there is
436 hereby established a special legislative commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter
437 4 of the General Laws to study and report on a suitable memorial to be erected to commemorate
438 Deborah Samson, the official heroine of the commonwealth during the War of Independence
439 pursuant to section 26 of chapter 2 of the General Laws.

440 The special commission shall: (i) promote public support and education of the importance
441 of Deborah Samson to the War of Independence; (ii) identify a location for a suitable memorial
442 to commemorate Deborah Samson; (iii) evaluate the cost of erecting and maintaining the
443 memorial; and (iv) evaluate the public and private resources available to erect and maintain the
444 memorial.

445 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint
446 committee on veterans and federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chairs; 2 members of the house
447 of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives,

448 and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2
449 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, and 1 of whom
450 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; the commissioner of veterans' services or
451 a designee; the adjutant general of the national guard of the commonwealth or a designee; and 7
452 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a female veteran, 1 of whom shall
453 be a representative of the women veterans' network in the department of veterans' services, 1 of
454 whom shall be a representative of the advisory committee on women veterans established
455 pursuant to section 2 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
456 the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc., 1 of whom
457 shall be a representative of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts Inc., 1 of whom
458 shall be a representative of the AMVETS Department of Massachusetts Service Foundation, Inc.
459 and 1 of whom shall be a representative of Disabled American Veterans, Department of
460 Massachusetts, Inc.

461 (c) The commission shall submit a report of its study and recommendations, including
462 any drafts of legislation necessary to implement its recommendations, to the clerks of the house
463 of representatives and senate not later than June 1, 2023.

464 SECTION 18. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before
465 October 1, 2022, the adjutant general of the national guard and the commissioner of veterans'
466 services shall encourage the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance and simplify the
467 registration process for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry by providing for: (i)
468 identification verification for DS Logon Level 2 access to be made available at U.S. Department
469 of Veterans Affairs' community-based outpatient clinics throughout Massachusetts; (ii) the

470 creation of a paper registration option; and (iii) the creation of a process for a deceased veteran's
471 family members to participate in the Registry on behalf of said veteran.

472 SECTION 19. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 6B of
473 chapter 71 of the General Laws shall not affect or impair any agreement in effect upon the
474 effective date of this act that designates a school district for enrollment of a military-connected
475 student and any such agreement may be amended or renewed subsequent to the effective date of
476 this act.

477 SECTION 20. The commissioner of public health, in consultation with the commissioner
478 of veterans' services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare
479 the informational pamphlet required by section 244 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, inserted
480 by section 12, not later than January 1, 2023.

481 SECTION 21. The request for deployment location related to the period health
482 assessment required pursuant to section 17 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, inserted by
483 section 16, shall take effect not later than January 1, 2023.