
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1952 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY BANTA, KEEFER, MARCELL, PIELLI, JAMES, ROWE,
GILLEN, O'NEAL, WENTLING, CIRESI, LEADBETER, SCIALABBA AND
KRUPA, JANUARY 9, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 9, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 53 (Municipalities
2 Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in
3 professional and occupational licenses, further providing for
4 definitions and providing for a policy for the award of
5 academic credit for military training; and making editorial
6 changes.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Chapter 75 heading of Title 51 of the
10 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

11 CHAPTER 75

12 [PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL] LICENSES AND

13 CREDITS FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND TRAINING

14 Section 2. Chapter 75 of Title 51 is amended by adding a
15 subchapter heading to read:

16 SUBCHAPTER A

17 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

18 Section 3. Section 7501 of Title 51 is amended by adding
19 definitions to read:

1 § 7501. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Community college." An institution created under any of the
6 following:

7 (1) Article XIX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
8 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

9 (2) The act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known
10 as the Community College Act of 1963.

11 "Educational institution." Any of the following:

12 (1) A community college.

13 (2) A public institution of higher learning.

14 (3) A State-owned institution.

15 (4) A State-related institution.

16 * * *

17 "Public institution of higher learning." A public
18 institution licensed or registered under the act of December 15,
19 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed Schools
20 Act, and approved to offer a program culminating in an associate
21 in specialized business degree or an associate in specialized
22 technology degree.

23 "State-owned institution." An institution which is part of
24 the State System of Higher Education under Article XX-A of the
25 Public School Code of 1949.

26 "State-related institution." Any of the following:

27 (1) The Pennsylvania State University.

28 (2) The University of Pittsburgh.

29 (3) Temple University.

30 (4) Lincoln University.

1 (5) A branch campus of any of the institutions listed
2 under this definition.

3 * * *

4 Section 4. Chapter 75 of Title 51 is amended by adding a
5 subchapter heading to read:

6 SUBCHAPTER B

7 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

8 Section 5. Section 7502 of Title 51 is renumbered to read:

9 § [7502] 7511. Retention of licenses and certifications of
10 persons entering military service.

11 (a) General rule.--Any person licensed or certified by the
12 Department of State, Department of Labor and Industry,
13 Department of Education, Insurance Department, Department of
14 Banking or the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training
15 Commission or pursuant to the act of October 10, 1974 (P.L.705,
16 No.235), known as the Lethal Weapons Training Act, to practice
17 any profession or to work at any trade or occupation, who
18 heretofore has or shall thereafter enlist or be inducted or
19 drafted into the military or naval service of the United States
20 in time of war or preparation for national defense during a
21 national emergency, shall not thereby forfeit his or her current
22 license or registration and shall be exempt from any continuing
23 educational requirements or in-service training requirements.

24 (b) Renewal of license or certification following
25 discharge.--A person shall, after presentation of a discharge
26 from service described under subsection (a) within one year from
27 the date of discharge and payment of the fee prescribed by law
28 for the current renewal period only, be entitled to a renewal of
29 his or her license, certification or registration in the same
30 manner as though:

1 (1) The renewal had been made prior to the expiration of
2 his or her last preceding renewal.

3 (2) All intermediate renewal fees had been paid.

4 (3) All continuing education or in-service training
5 requirements have been satisfied.

6 (c) Exemptions.--A veteran's military service, education,
7 training and service experience shall be taken into
8 consideration by the entities listed under subsection (a) to
9 determine whether a licensing or certification requirement has
10 been met by or can otherwise be waived by reason of that
11 military service, education, training or experience. The veteran
12 shall only be required to meet a licensing or certification
13 requirement which has not been met by or waived under this
14 subsection.

15 Section 6. Section 7503.1 of Title 51 is amended to read:

16 § [7503.1] 7512. Applicability of [chapter] subchapter.

17 The Pennsylvania Supreme Court may extend this [chapter]
18 subchapter to those licensed to practice law in this
19 Commonwealth.

20 Section 7. Chapter 75 of Title 51 is amended by adding a
21 subchapter to read:

22 SUBCHAPTER C

23 ACADEMIC CREDIT

24 Sec.

25 7521. Policy for the award of academic credit for military
26 training.

27 § 7521. Policy for the award of academic credit for military
28 training.

29 (a) Adoption.--The Department of Education shall adopt a
30 policy for the award of academic credit to a student enrolled in

1 an educational institution who has successfully completed a
2 military training course or program as part of the student's
3 military service that is applicable to the student's certificate
4 of degree requirements and is:

5 (1) recommended for academic credit by a national higher
6 education association that provides academic credit
7 recommendations for military training courses or programs;

8 (2) noted on the student's military transcript issued by
9 any of the armed forces of the United States, including a
10 reserve component or National Guard; or

11 (3) otherwise documented in writing by any of the armed
12 forces of the United States, including a reserve component or
13 National Guard.

14 (b) Duties.--The Department of Education shall:

15 (1) develop a procedure for each educational institution
16 to receive the documentation necessary to identify and verify
17 the military training course or program for which the student
18 has applied for academic credit; and

19 (2) develop, maintain and disseminate to each
20 educational institution a list of military training courses
21 and programs that the Department of Education has deemed
22 qualified for the award of academic credit.

23 (c) Provision of copy.--Each educational institution shall
24 provide a copy of the Department of Education's policy for the
25 award of academic credit for military training courses or
26 programs to each student applicant.

27 Section 8. Section 2167(d) of Title 53 is amended to read:

28 § 2167. Police training.

29 * * *

30 (d) Mandatory waiver request.--If a police officer is unable

1 to attend in-service training due to service in the military or
2 National Guard or as a result of injury sustained in service as
3 a police officer, the officer's employer shall request a waiver
4 under section 2164(6) (relating to powers and duties of
5 commission). A police officer whose employer fails to request a
6 waiver as required under this subsection shall not be
7 decertified unless, upon return to service, the officer fails to
8 participate in such in-service training as the commission deems
9 appropriate in accordance with this chapter and 51 Pa.C.S. Ch.
10 75 (relating to [professional and occupational] licenses and
11 credit for military service and training).

12 Section 9. This act shall take effect in 60 days.