

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, KRUPA, ROAE AND TAKAC, JANUARY 9, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 12, 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

1 ~~definitions~~ A DEFINITION to read:

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2 § 7501. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

12 ~~"Educational institution." Any of the following:~~

13 ~~(1) A community college.~~

14 ~~(2) A public institution of higher learning.~~

15 ~~(3) A State owned institution.~~

16 ~~(4) A State related institution.~~

17 * * *

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

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

27 ~~"State related institution." Any of the following:~~

28 ~~(1) The Pennsylvania State University.~~

29 ~~(2) The University of Pittsburgh.~~

30 ~~(3) Temple University.~~

1 ~~(4) Lincoln University.~~

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

4 * * *

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5 "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

6 (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A OF
7 THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE
8 PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949.

9 (2) A UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER
10 EDUCATION UNDER ARTICLE XX-A OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF
11 1949.

12 (3) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF
13 PITTSBURGH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OR ANY
14 OTHER INSTITUTION DESIGNATED AS STATE-RELATED BY THE
15 COMMONWEALTH.

16 (4) THE THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

17 (5) A COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XIX-G OF THE
18 PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949.

19 (6) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN AND
20 INCORPORATED OR CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND ENTITLED TO
21 CONFER DEGREES AS PROVIDED UNDER 24 PA.C.S. § 6505 (RELATING
22 TO POWER TO CONFER DEGREES) AND AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE
23 STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
24 EDUCATION UNDER 24 PA.C.S. CH. 65 (RELATING TO PRIVATE
25 COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES).

26 (7) A PRIVATE SCHOOL LICENSED UNDER THE ACT OF DECEMBER
27 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, NO.174), KNOWN AS THE PRIVATE LICENSED
28 SCHOOLS ACT.

29 (8) A FOREIGN CORPORATION APPROVED TO OPERATE AN
30 EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 36 (RELATING TO

1 FOREIGN CORPORATION STANDARDS).

2 * * *

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

5 SUBCHAPTER B

6 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

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

8 § [7502] 7511. Retention of licenses and certifications of
9 persons entering military service.

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

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

30 (1) The renewal had been made prior to the expiration of

1 his or her last preceding renewal.

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

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

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

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

15 § [7503.1] 7512. Applicability of [chapter] subchapter.

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

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

21 SUBCHAPTER C

22 ACADEMIC CREDIT

23 Sec.

24 7521. Policy for the award of academic credit for military
25 training.

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

28 (a) Adoption.--The Department of Education shall adopt a
29 policy for the award of academic credit to a student enrolled in
30 an educational institution INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION who <--

1 has successfully completed a military training course or
2 program, OR WHO HAS OBTAINED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, as part of <--
3 the student's military service that is applicable to the
4 student's certificate 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 (B) DUTIES.--THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP, <--
28 MAINTAIN AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
29 A LIST OF MILITARY TRAINING SOURCES AND PROGRAMS THAT THE
30 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS DEEMED QUALIFIED FOR THE AWARD OF

1 ACADEMIC CREDIT.

2 (C) PROVISION OF COPY.--EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
3 SHALL MAKE A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S POLICY FOR
4 THE AWARD OF ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING COURSES OR
5 PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC CATALOG OF THE INSTITUTION OF
6 HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

8 § 2167. Police training.

9 * * *

10 (d) Mandatory waiver request.--If a police officer is unable
11 to attend in-service training due to service in the military or
12 National Guard or as a result of injury sustained in service as
13 a police officer, the officer's employer shall request a waiver
14 under section 2164(6) (relating to powers and duties of
15 commission). A police officer whose employer fails to request a
16 waiver as required under this subsection shall not be
17 decertified unless, upon return to service, the officer fails to
18 participate in such in-service training as the commission deems
19 appropriate in accordance with this chapter and 51 Pa.C.S. Ch.
20 75 (relating to [professional and occupational] licenses and
21 credit for military service and training).

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