

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 27

BY SENATORS FOIL, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FIELDS, HARRIS, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT AND WOMACK

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

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. Provides relative to military and veteran friendly postsecondary education policies. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3138.5(A), (B)(1), the introductory paragraph of (B)(2),
3 (B)(2)(a), and (D)(4), and 3165.2(A), (B), (C)(1)(b), and (E), relative to
4 postsecondary education; to expand the eligibility for designation as military and
5 veteran friendly campus to all postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana; to
6 provide for the transfer of academic and workforce credits earned by military
7 members and their spouses to Louisiana's public postsecondary education
8 institutions; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.5(A), (B)(1), the introductory paragraph of (B)(2), (B)(2)(a),
11 and (D)(4), and 3165.2(A), (B), (C)(1)(b), and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
12 as follows:

13 §3138.5. Military and veteran friendly campus; designation; process; eligibility;
14 applications

15 A.(1) The legislature finds that military veterans need comprehensive,
16 statewide support to aid them in transition from military service to enrollment in
17 ~~public~~ postsecondary education institutions. This support should encourage ~~such~~ the

1 enrollment of veterans and address issues that may deter their participation in ~~public~~
 2 postsecondary education. These issues include but are not limited to affordability,
 3 lack of awareness by postsecondary faculty and staff of veterans' culture, the need
 4 for orientation and mentoring programs designed specifically for veterans, and the
 5 facilitation of credit completion by veterans as efficiently and quickly as possible.

6 (2) The purpose of this Section is to provide formal recognition by the
 7 governor of ~~state-public~~ postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana that
 8 successfully create a supportive environment for military veterans.

9 B.(1) The Board of Regents shall establish a process for a ~~public~~
 10 postsecondary education institution to be designated as a "Governor's Military and
 11 Veteran Friendly Campus" ~~beginning with the Fall 2015 semester.~~

12 (2) To be eligible to receive the designation as specified in Paragraph (1) of
 13 this Subsection, an institution shall, at a minimum, meet all of the following
 14 criteria:

15 (a)(i) ~~Adopt~~ For public postsecondary education institutions, adopt and
 16 fully implement the military articulation and transfer process as provided in R.S.
 17 17:3165.2.

18 (ii) For nonpublic postsecondary education institutions, adopt and fully
 19 implement a military friendly articulation and transfer process that aligns with
 20 nationally recognized standards for evaluating educational experiences in the
 21 United States Armed Forces.

22 * * *
 23 D. * * *

24 (4) After receiving the initial designation by the governor, an institution
 25 annually shall submit a renewal application to the Board of Regents in accordance
 26 with the time lines established by the board. Each renewal application shall include
 27 a report that, at a minimum, contains all of the following information from the
 28 previous year as it relates to veterans:

29 (a) The number granted application fee waivers.

1 (b) The number who attended the specialized orientation program and a
2 description of the orientation program.

3 (c) The number who participated in the priority class registration.

4 (d) The number who benefitted from the military articulation and transfer
5 process as provided in R.S. ~~17:3165.2~~ **Subparagraph (B)(2)(a) of this Section**, the
6 number of credits hours accepted through the transfer process, and a list of the
7 courses credited through the transfer process.

8 **(e) The completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children.**

9 **(f) Other military friendly information identified by the Board of**
10 **Regents.**

11 * * *

12 §3165.2. College credit for military service; spouses of veterans

13 A.(1) Each articulation and transfer agreement developed and implemented
14 in accordance with this Chapter shall maximize the number of academic or
15 workforce education credits awarded to veterans of the United States Armed Forces
16 for their military education, training, or experience and provide for their seamless
17 transfer from **military service to enrollment in any Louisiana public**
18 **postsecondary education institution and from** one public postsecondary education
19 institution to another.

20 (2) The council shall use ~~the "Guide to the Evaluation of Educational~~
21 ~~Experiences in the Armed Services"~~ and the standards of the American Council on
22 Education **nationally recognized standards for evaluating educational**
23 **experiences in the United States Armed Forces** to govern the award of academic
24 or workforce credit for military education, training, or experience.

25 B. Each public postsecondary education institution shall assist veterans of the
26 United States Armed Forces and their spouses in pursuing their educational goals by
27 providing expedited transcript analysis, prior learning assessment, portfolio analysis,
28 advising, and testing. At **Upon the disclosure of military status on the application**
29 **for enrollment or at** the request of an entering student who is a veteran or the

1 spouse of a veteran, each public postsecondary education institution shall evaluate
 2 any transcript of prior earned postsecondary academic or workforce credit and
 3 accept the transfer of any credit earned from a regionally accredited postsecondary
 4 institution, or military education, training, or experience provided that the credit
 5 aligns with the course and program requirements of the receiving institution.

6 C.(1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall coordinate and
 7 oversee the development of a military articulation and transfer process that shall be
 8 adhered to by all public postsecondary education institutions and that shall:

9 * * *

10 (b) Provide for the transfer of academic and workforce credit hours earned
 11 by a veteran or the spouse of a veteran from a postsecondary education institution
 12 that offers academic coursework to military personnel and their spouses, provided
 13 such institution is accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting body and the
 14 credit to be transferred is aligned with the course and program requirements of the
 15 receiving institution.

16 * * *

17 ~~E.(1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall meet not later~~
 18 ~~than September 15, 2015, to begin the process of implementing the provisions of this~~
 19 ~~Section.~~

20 ~~(2) The provisions of this Section shall be fully implemented not later than~~
 21 ~~the beginning of the Spring semester of the 2015-2016 academic year. For the~~
 22 ~~purposes of this Section, "veteran" shall have the meaning as provided in R.S.~~
 23 ~~13:5364.~~

24 * * *

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

The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Tammy Crain-Waldrop.

DIGEST

SB 27 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Foil

Present law (R.S. 17:3138.5) provides for a process whereby public postsecondary education institutions may be designated by the governor as a "Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus".

Proposed law expands the ability to earn a designation as a "Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus" to all postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana.

Present law provides that the Board of Regents shall establish the process, review the applications, and submit the applications and a report to the governor that indicates if an institution meets the eligibility requirements. Provides that a designation is for one year. Requires renewal applications to be reviewed by the Bd. of Regents and lists the information required in the renewal applications. Also provides that the Bd. of Regents shall verify that an institution continues to meet the eligibility requirements in order for the institution to continue to receive the designation.

Proposed law provides that the criteria listed for initial designation and renewal are the minimum requirements.

Present law provides for a military articulation and transfer process for public postsecondary education institutions and requires adoption and full implementation of this process as an eligibility requirement for designation as a military and veteran friendly campus.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides for the adoption and implementation of a military friendly articulation and transfer process for nonpublic postsecondary education institutions to be eligible for this designation.

Proposed law adds completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children to the data required in the renewal application report. Additionally, provides that the Bd. of Regents may identify and require other military friendly information as part of the renewal application.

Present law (R.S. 17:3165.2) requires that the articulation and transfer agreements of public postsecondary education institutions maximize the articulation and transfer of credits earned by veterans.

Proposed law clarifies present law to ensure that a veteran's military education, training, and work experiences are reviewed and awarded appropriate academic and workforce credit upon application into Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions and when transferring from one public postsecondary education institution in Louisiana to another.

Present law provides that a veteran or the spouse of a veteran must request the evaluation of their transcript for prior learning credit.

Proposed law requires the transcript of a veteran or the spouse of the veteran to be evaluated upon the disclosure of the military status on the application.

Proposed law defines "veteran" as a former or current member of the U.S. Armed Forces or organized militia of the several states and territories, including but not limited to a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, Air National Guard, Reserves, State Guard, or a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service,

Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3138.5(A), (B)(1), (B)(2)(intro para), (B)(2)(a), and (D)(4), and 3165.2(A), (B), (C)(1)(b), and (E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.