

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.

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

23 (2) The purpose of this Section is to provide formal recognition by the

1 governor of ~~state public~~ postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana that  
2 successfully create a supportive environment for military veterans.

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

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

9 (a)~~(i) Adopt~~ For public postsecondary education institutions, adopt and  
10 fully implement the military articulation and transfer process as provided in R.S.  
11 17:3165.2.

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

16 \* \* \*

17 D. \* \* \*

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

23 (a) The number granted application fee waivers.

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

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

27 (d) The number who benefitted from the military articulation and transfer  
28 process as provided in R.S. 17:3165.2 Subparagraph (B)(2)(a) of this Section, the  
29 number of credits hours accepted through the transfer process, and a list of the  
30 courses credited through the transfer process.



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

\* \* \*

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_