
HOUSE BILL No. 1268

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-41-9.

Synopsis: Combat to college program. Requires state educational institutions to establish a combat to college program (program). Requires a state educational institution to: (1) provide a centralized location for admissions, registration, and financial administration services for veteran students; (2) provide reasonable accommodations for disabled veteran students and a state educational institution's fitness facility; (3) develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically to veteran students; (4) develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from post traumatic stress disorder; and (5) develop job search programs designed for veteran students. Provides that each state educational institution shall designate a program coordinator. Requires a state educational institution to establish a hiring preference policy for veteran students. Requires a state educational institution to provide postsecondary credit for military training if the American Council of Education recommends that postsecondary credit should be provided for that military training.

Effective: July 1, 2011.

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January 12, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

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First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1268



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 21-41-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
- 2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 3 1, 2011]:
- 4 **Chapter 9. Combat to College Program**
- 5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "armed forces of the United**
- 6 **States" has the meaning set forth in IC 10-17-12-2.**
- 7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "coordinator" refers to a**
- 8 **program coordinator designated under section 9 of this chapter.**
- 9 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "National Guard" means a**
- 10 **state's:**
- 11 **(1) army National Guard; or**
- 12 **(2) air National Guard.**
- 13 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "postsecondary credit" means**
- 14 **credit toward:**
- 15 **(1) an associate degree;**
- 16 **(2) a baccalaureate degree; or**
- 17 **(3) a career and technical education certification;**



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granted by a state educational institution.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the combat to college program established under section 7 of this chapter.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "veteran student" refers to a student of a state educational institution that has been or is currently serving as a member of the:

- (1) armed forces of the United States; or
- (2) National Guard.

Sec. 7. Each state educational institution shall establish a combat to college program to create a positive educational environment for veteran students to successfully graduate from academic and vocational degree programs while recognizing the skills, training, and experiences associated with military service.

Sec. 8. Each state educational institution shall do the following:

- (1) To the extent possible exercising financial prudence, provide a centralized location for admissions, registration for classes, and financial administration services for veteran students.
- (2) Provide reasonable accommodations for disabled veteran students at a state educational institution's fitness facility.
- (3) Develop programs to provide academic and career counseling specifically designed for veteran students.
- (4) Develop programs to provide reasonable access to specialized counseling services or resources for disabled veteran students or veteran students suffering from post traumatic stress disorders.
- (5) Develop job search assistance programs designed for veteran students during the veteran student's enrollment and for at least two (2) years following the veteran student's graduation from the state educational institution.

Sec. 9. (a) Each state educational institution shall designate a program coordinator.

(b) The duties of the program coordinator include the following:

- (1) Develop programs to create a positive educational environment for veteran students while the veteran student is enrolled at the state educational institution.
- (2) Develop training programs for the state educational institution's personnel relating to:
 - (A) issues associated with identifying and assisting veteran students with post traumatic stress disorders;
 - (B) veteran benefits; and
 - (C) any issue that the coordinator determines will educate

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a state educational institution's faculty or staff of the special needs of veteran students.

(3) Make recommendations to the commission for higher education established under IC 21-18-2 concerning ways to improve the education of veteran students.

(4) Coordinate access to stress management, counseling, programs, and other resources available to a veteran student at the state educational institution.

(5) Coordinate with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs established by IC 10-17-1-2 to educate veteran students about state benefits available to Indiana veterans.

(6) Coordinate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to educate veteran students about federal benefits available to veterans.

(7) Coordinate with the adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee to educate veteran students about benefits and programs available to veteran students who served or are currently serving in the National Guard.

(8) Coordinate activities, seminars, and programs for veteran students presented by a veterans organization listed in IC 10-18-8-1.

(9) Coordinate campus activities and social events designed for veteran students.

(10) Develop programs to assist a veteran student to locate employment.

(11) Develop internship programs designed specifically for veteran students.

(12) Develop an Internet web site to provide veteran students access to veteran resources.

Sec. 10. (a) Except as provided under IC 21-16-2, each state educational institution shall develop a hiring preference policy for veteran students for employment by the state educational institution for positions available for students of the state educational institution.

(b) For a veteran student to be eligible for a hiring preference, a veteran student must be at least a half-time student (as defined in IC 21-16-1-12) and:

(1) must have received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States or National Guard; or

(2) must be currently serving in the armed forces of the United States or National Guard.

(c) The state educational institution may make reasonable

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1 exemptions from the hiring preference policy described in
2 subsection (a) for teaching positions or positions that may require
3 a specialized skill.

4 Sec. 11. Each state educational institution shall provide
5 postsecondary credit to a veteran student for the veteran student's
6 military training while serving in the armed forces of the United
7 States or National Guard if the American Council of Education
8 recommends that postsecondary credit should be provided for that
9 military training.

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