

SENATE BILL No. 410

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-41-9.

Synopsis: Veteran education programs. Requires each state educational institution 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 fitness facility accommodations for veteran students who are disabled; (3) develop programs to provide academic and career counseling specifically designed for veteran students; (4) develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder; and (5) develop job search assistance programs designed for veteran students. Requires each state educational institution to designate a program coordinator. Requires a state educational institution to establish a hiring preference policy favoring 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 the military training.

Effective: July 1, 2013.

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January 10, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 118th General Assembly (2013)

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 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 410



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans.

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, 2013]:
 4 **Chapter 9. Combat to College Program**
 5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "armed forces" has the meaning**
 6 **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 state's:**
 10 (1) **army national guard; or**
 11 (2) **air national guard.**
 12 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "postsecondary credit" means**
 13 **credit toward:**
 14 (1) **an associate degree;**
 15 (2) **a baccalaureate degree; or**
 16 (3) **a career and technical education certification;**
 17 **granted by a state educational institution.**



1 **Sec. 5.** As used in this chapter, "program" refers to a combat to
2 college program established by a state educational institution
3 under section 7 of this chapter.

4 **Sec. 6.** As used in this chapter, "veteran student" refers to a
5 student who is enrolled in a state educational institution and who
6 has served or is currently serving as a member of the:

- 7 (1) armed forces; or
8 (2) national guard.

9 **Sec. 7.** Each state educational institution shall establish a
10 combat to college program that creates a positive educational
11 environment allowing veteran students to successfully graduate
12 from academic and vocational degree programs and that
13 recognizes the skills, training, and experiences associated with
14 military service.

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

- 16 (1) To the extent possible exercising financial prudence,
17 provide a centralized location for admissions, registration for
18 classes, and financial administration services for veteran
19 students.
20 (2) Provide reasonable accommodations at the state
21 educational institution's fitness facility for veteran students
22 who are disabled.
23 (3) Develop programs to provide academic and career
24 counseling specifically designed for veteran students.
25 (4) Develop programs to provide reasonable access to
26 specialized counseling services or resources for veteran
27 students who are disabled or suffering from posttraumatic
28 stress disorder.
29 (5) Develop job search assistance programs designed to assist
30 veteran students:
31 (A) during the veteran student's enrollment; and
32 (B) for at least two (2) years following the veteran student's
33 graduation from the state educational institution.

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

36 **(b)** The duties of the coordinator include the following:

- 37 (1) Develop programs to create a positive educational
38 environment for veteran students while enrolled at the state
39 educational institution.
40 (2) Develop training programs for the state educational
41 institution's personnel relating to:
42 (A) issues associated with identifying and assisting veteran

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- 1 students with posttraumatic stress disorder;
- 2 (B) veteran benefits; and
- 3 (C) any issue that the coordinator determines will educate
- 4 a state educational institution's faculty or staff concerning
- 5 the special needs of veteran students.
- 6 (3) Make recommendations to the commission for higher
- 7 education established under IC 21-18-2 concerning ways to
- 8 improve the education of veteran students.
- 9 (4) Coordinate access to stress management, counseling
- 10 programs, and other resources available to a veteran student
- 11 at the state educational institution.
- 12 (5) Coordinate with the Indiana department of veterans'
- 13 affairs established by IC 10-17-1-2 to educate veteran students
- 14 about state benefits available to Indiana veterans.
- 15 (6) Coordinate with the United States Department of Veterans
- 16 Affairs to educate veteran students about federal benefits
- 17 available to veterans.
- 18 (7) Coordinate with the adjutant general or the adjutant
- 19 general's designee to educate veteran students about benefits
- 20 and programs available to veteran students who have served
- 21 or are serving in the national guard.
- 22 (8) Coordinate activities, seminars, and programs for veteran
- 23 students presented by veterans organizations listed in
- 24 IC 10-18-8-1.
- 25 (9) Coordinate campus activities and social events designed
- 26 for veteran students.
- 27 (10) Develop programs to assist veteran students to find
- 28 employment.
- 29 (11) Develop internship programs designed specifically for
- 30 veteran students.
- 31 (12) Develop an Internet web site to provide veteran students
- 32 access to veteran resources.
- 33 Sec. 10. (a) Except as provided in IC 21-16-2, each state
- 34 educational institution shall develop a hiring preference policy
- 35 favoring veteran students for employment by the state educational
- 36 institution for positions available to students of the state
- 37 educational institution.
- 38 (b) For a veteran student to be eligible for a hiring preference
- 39 under a policy developed under subsection (a), a veteran student
- 40 must be at least a half-time student (as defined in IC 21-16-1-12)
- 41 and:
- 42 (1) must have received an honorable discharge from the

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1 armed forces or national guard; or
2 (2) must be serving in the armed forces or national guard.
3 (c) A state educational institution may make reasonable
4 exemptions from a hiring preference policy developed under
5 subsection (a) for teaching positions or positions that may require
6 a specialized skill.
7 Sec. 11. Each state educational institution shall provide
8 postsecondary credit to a veteran student for the veteran student's
9 military training while serving in the armed forces or national
10 guard if the American Council of Education recommends that
11 postsecondary credit should be provided for that military training.

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