

HOUSE BILL No. 1134

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, for veteran students who are disabled, reasonable accommodations at a state educational institution's fitness facility; (3) develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically 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 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 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 the military training.

Effective: July 1, 2013.

VanDenburgh

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

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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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HOUSE BILL No. 1134



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 the combat
2 to college program established under section 7 of this chapter.

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

6 (1) armed forces; or

7 (2) national guard.

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

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

14 (1) To the extent possible exercising financial prudence,
15 provide a centralized location for admissions, registration for
16 classes, and financial administration services for veteran
17 students.

18 (2) Provide reasonable accommodations at a state educational
19 institution's fitness facility for veteran students who are
20 disabled.

21 (3) Develop programs to provide academic and career
22 counseling specifically designed for veteran students.

23 (4) Develop programs to provide reasonable access to
24 specialized counseling services or resources for veteran
25 students who are disabled or veteran students suffering from
26 posttraumatic stress disorder.

27 (5) Develop job search assistance programs designed for
28 veteran students during the veteran student's enrollment and
29 for at least two (2) years following the veteran student's
30 graduation from the state educational institution.

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

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

34 (1) Develop programs to create a positive educational
35 environment for veteran students while the veteran student is
36 enrolled at the state educational institution.

37 (2) Develop training programs for the state educational
38 institution's personnel relating to:

39 (A) issues associated with identifying and assisting veteran
40 students with posttraumatic stress disorder;

41 (B) veteran benefits; and

42 (C) any issue that the coordinator determines will educate

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

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