February 22, 2013

SENATE BILL No. 115

DIGEST OF SB 115 (Updated February 20, 2013 2:26 pm - DI 116)

Citations Affected: IC 21-41.

Synopsis: Combat to college program. Requires state educational institutions that have at least 200 veteran students enrolled 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 at 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 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.

Effective: July 1, 2013.

Glick, Paul, Waterman, Steele, Young R, Kruse, Yoder, Leising

January 7, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.
February 21, 2013, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

C o p y

February 22, 2013

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.

C o p y

SENATE BILL No. 115

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

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

SECTION 1. IC 21-41-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013]:

Chapter 9. Combat to College Program

Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a state educational institution only if at least two hundred (200) veteran students are enrolled in the state educational institution.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces" has the meaning set forth in IC 10-17-12-2.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "coordinator" refers to a program coordinator designated under section 10 of this chapter.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "national guard" means a state's:

(1) army national guard; or

(2) air national guard.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "postsecondary credit" means credit toward:

(1) an associate degree;

(2) a baccalaureate degree; or

(3) a career and technical education certification;

granted by a state educational institution.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the combat to college program established under section 8 of this chapter.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "veteran student" refers to a student of a state educational institution who has been or is currently serving as a member of the:

(1) armed forces; or

(2) national guard.

Sec. 8. 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. 9. Each state educational institution shall do the following:

(1) Provide on its application for admission a question asking whether the applicant is currently or has ever been a member of the armed forces and an instruction directing the applicant, if the applicant has been a member of the armed forces, to indicate on the application whether the applicant received an honorable discharge.

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

(3) Provide reasonable accommodations, in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), at a state educational institution's fitness facility for veteran students who are disabled.

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

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

(6) Develop job search assistance programs designed for veteran students during the veteran student's enrollment at the state educational institution.

Sec. 10. (a) Each state educational institution shall designate a program coordinator.

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

C o p y

(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 posttraumatic stress disorder;

(B) veteran benefits; and

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

C o p y

COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 115, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, between lines 4 and 5, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"**Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a state educational institution only if at least two hundred (200) veteran students are enrolled in the state educational institution.**".

Page 1, line 5, delete "Sec. 1." and insert "**Sec. 2.**".

Page 1, line 7, delete "Sec. 2." and insert "**Sec. 3.**".

Page 1, line 8, delete "section 9" and insert "**section 10**".

Page 1, line 9, delete "Sec. 3." and insert "**Sec. 4.**".

Page 1, line 12, delete "Sec. 4." and insert "**Sec. 5.**".

Page 2, line 1, delete "Sec. 5." and insert "**Sec. 6.**".

Page 2, line 2, delete "section 7" and insert "**section 8**".

Page 2, line 3, delete "Sec. 6." and insert "**Sec. 7.**".

Page 2, line 8, delete "Sec. 7." and insert "**Sec. 8.**".

Page 2, line 13, delete "Sec. 8." and insert "**Sec. 9.**".

Page 2, between lines 13 and 14, begin a new line block indented and insert:

> "**(1) Provide on its application for admission a question asking whether the applicant is currently or has ever been a member of the armed forces and an instruction directing the applicant, if the applicant has been a member of the armed forces, to indicate on the application whether the applicant received an honorable discharge.**".

Page 2, line 14, delete "(1)" and insert "**(2)**".

Page 2, line 18, delete "(2)" and insert "**(3)**".

Page 2, line 18, delete "accommodations" and insert "**accommodations, in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.),**".

Page 2, line 21, delete "(3)" and insert "**(4)**".

Page 2, line 23, delete "(4)" and insert "**(5)**".

Page 2, line 27, delete "(5)" and insert "**(6)**".

Page 2, line 28, delete "and" and insert "**at the state educational institution.**".

Page 2, delete lines 29 through 30.

Page 2, line 31, delete "Sec. 9." and insert "**Sec. 10.**".

C o p y

Page 3, delete lines 30 through 42.
Delete page 4.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 115 as introduced.)

KRUSE, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0.

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