

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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SENATE DRS25102-RKz-39* (04/03)

Short Title: Credit for Military Training. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Meredith and Rabin (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS, AND TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO SUBMIT A PLAN THAT WILL ENSURE THAT COLLEGE CREDITS ARE UNIFORMLY GRANTED TO STUDENTS WITH MILITARY TRAINING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON CIVILIAN CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 93B-15.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 93B-15.1. Licensure for individuals with military training and experience; licensure by endorsement for military spouses; temporary license.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an occupational licensing board, as defined in G.S. 93B-1, shall issue a license, certification, or registration to a military-trained applicant to allow the applicant to lawfully practice the applicant's occupation in this State if, upon application to an occupational licensing board, the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) Has been awarded a military occupational specialty and has done all of the following at a level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration of the occupational licensing board from which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this State: completed a military program of training, completed testing or equivalent training and experience, ~~experience as determined by the board~~, and performed in the occupational specialty.
- (2) Has engaged in the active practice of the occupation for which the person is seeking a license, certification, or permit from the occupational licensing board in this State for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application under this section.
- (3) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this State at the time the act was committed.
- (4) Pays any fees required by the occupational licensing board for which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this State.

(a1) No later than 30 days following receipt of an application, an occupational licensing board shall notify an applicant when the applicant's military training or experience does not



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1 satisfy the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration and shall specify the criteria
2 or requirements that the board determined that the applicant failed to meet and the basis for that
3 determination.

4 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an occupational licensing board, as
5 defined in G.S. 93B-1, shall issue a license, certification, or registration to a military spouse to
6 allow the military spouse to lawfully practice the military spouse's occupation in this State if,
7 upon application to an occupational licensing board, the military spouse satisfies the following
8 conditions:

- 9 (1) Holds a current license, certification, or registration from another
10 jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's requirements for licensure, certification,
11 or registration are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for
12 licensure, certification, or registration of the occupational licensing board for
13 which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this
14 State.
- 15 (2) Can demonstrate competency in the occupation through methods as
16 determined by the Board, such as having completed continuing education
17 units or having had recent experience for at least two of the five years
18 preceding the date of the application under this section.
- 19 (3) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted
20 grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice that
21 occupation in this State at the time the act was committed.
- 22 (4) Is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the agency that had
23 jurisdiction to issue the license, certification, or permit.
- 24 (5) Pays any fees required by the occupational licensing board for which the
25 applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this State.

26 (c) All relevant experience of a military service member in the discharge of official
27 duties or, for a military spouse, all relevant experience, including full-time and part-time
28 experience, regardless of whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, shall be credited in the
29 calculation of years of practice in an occupation as required under subsection (a) or (b) of this
30 section.

31 (c1) Each occupational licensing board shall publish a document that lists the specific
32 criteria or requirements for licensure, registration, or certification by the board, with a
33 description of the criteria or requirements that are satisfied by military training or experience as
34 provided in this section, and any necessary documentation needed for obtaining the credit or
35 satisfying the requirement. The information required by this subsection shall be published on
36 the occupational licensing board's Web site and the Web site of the North Carolina Division of
37 Veterans Affairs.

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39 **SECTION 2.** Each occupational licensing board shall contact training offices at
40 military installations, or any other federal offices that provide information on military
41 occupational specialties and training, for the purpose of (i) acquiring information necessary for
42 an adequate understanding of military training and job requirements and (ii) assisting in
43 determining the applicability and correlation of military training and experience to the criteria
44 and requirements for licensure, certification, or registration. No later than September 1, 2014,
45 each occupational licensing board shall submit a report to the cochairs of the Legislative
46 Research Commission Study Committee on Civilian Credit for Military Training with the status
47 of the document required by Section 1 of this act and the results of their consultation with
48 military training officials as required by this section.

49 **SECTION 3.** The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the
50 State Board of Community Colleges shall jointly develop a plan for implementing a uniform
51 system of granting course credits to all students enrolled in constituent institutions of The

1 University of North Carolina and all students enrolled in State community colleges based on
2 the students' military training or experience. The plan shall include a description of the
3 procedure to be utilized in evaluating military training or experience and its correlation to
4 school course credits and the process for the transfer of course credits between constituent
5 institutions and community colleges when course credit has been granted by any institution or
6 community college based upon military training or experience. As part of the plan, the Board of
7 Governors of The University of North Carolina, in consultation with the State Board of
8 Community Colleges, shall consider a process for recognizing Associate of Arts or Associate of
9 Science degrees granted by institutions that are participants in the Servicemembers Opportunity
10 Colleges Consortium or the Community College of the Air Force.

11 No later than September 1, 2014, the Board of Governors of The University of
12 North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges shall provide a report to the Joint
13 Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the cochairs of the House Homeland Security,
14 Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee, and the cochairs of the Legislative Research
15 Commission Study Committee on Civilian Credit for Military Training on the progress toward
16 developing the plan required by this section. No later than January 1, 2015, the Board of
17 Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges
18 shall submit the plan and any recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
19 Committee, the cochairs of the House Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs
20 Committee, and the cochairs of the Legislative Research Commission Study Committee on
21 Civilian Credit for Military Training.

22 **SECTION 4.** The State Board of Community Colleges shall consult with the North
23 Carolina National Guard Education and Employment Center, the North Carolina Department of
24 Commerce, the North Carolina Department of Labor, and any other state or federal agencies as
25 appropriate, to do the following: (i) study "Knowledge Gap Fulfillment," the continuation,
26 development, and creation of programs that provide maximum credit for military training and
27 experience that meet North Carolina licensing, certification, or credential standards; (ii)
28 identify job development programs that require the same Military Occupational Skills (MOS)
29 or share the same aptitude skills required to complete the program; (iii) identify existing
30 Veterans Affairs (VA) approved nondegree programs conducted in other states that have a high
31 employment demand in North Carolina; (iv) determine the ability of State community colleges
32 or other training centers to conduct these nondegree programs; and (v) identify and develop
33 similar short-term programs that meet North Carolina specific high employment technical
34 career fields. A consideration in all program studies in this section shall be VA approval for
35 educational benefits with the North Carolina State Approval Agency. The State Board of
36 Community Colleges shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the
37 cochairs of the House Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee, and the
38 cochairs of the Legislative Research Commission Study Committee on Civilian Credit for
39 Military Training with recommendations and any proposed legislation no later than October 1,
40 2014.

41 **SECTION 5.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2015. The
42 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.