

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 17-0646.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 17-1004**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Michaelson Jenet and Danielson,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hill and Garcia,**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING A STATEWIDE POLICY FOR AWARDING COLLEGE CREDIT**  
102      **FOR MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the Colorado commission on higher education, in consultation with state institutions of higher education, to create a statewide metric for awarding college credit for measurable military education and training that is applicable to the completion of a postsecondary degree or certificate. Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, institutions of higher education shall award credit for military

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 5, 2017

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 4, 2017

education and training pursuant to the statewide metric. During the regular legislative session prior to its implementation, the department of higher education shall report to the general assembly on the statewide metric for military credit.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Many Coloradans currently serve in the Armed Forces, and  
5 Colorado is home to more than 400,000 veterans;

6 (b) These members of our community spend significant time  
7 receiving training and education for jobs serving our country and  
8 safeguarding our freedom and liberty;

9 (c) The Armed Forces invest taxpayer dollars to provide  
10 high-quality education and training to service members;

11 (d) Upon separation from the military, former service members  
12 are offered a GI bill;

13 (e) The GI bill generally covers only thirty-six months of  
14 education, and guidance targeted to veterans is necessary to ensure the  
15 optimal use of these limited GI benefits; and

16 (f) Veterans face an increased risk of poverty and failure to  
17 complete their postsecondary education if they are placed in college  
18 courses without appropriate recognition of college-level learning acquired  
19 while in the military and targeted guidance from the institution to ensure  
20 that GI bill benefits are used effectively to complete a chosen program of  
21 study.

22 (2) Now, therefore, by requiring state institutions of higher  
23 education to adopt a policy for awarding credit for college-level learning

1 acquired in the military and provide appropriate guidance to veterans,  
2 Colorado can ensure an easier pathway to career and financial success for  
3 our veterans.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-5-144** as  
5 follows:

6 **23-5-144. Credit for military education and training - policy**

7 **- repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
8 REQUIRES, "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
9 HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10); EXCEPT  
10 THAT "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
11 INCLUDES EACH LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF A LOCAL  
12 COLLEGE DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE 23  
13 AND THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

14 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, EACH GOVERNING BOARD OF  
15 A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT, MAKE PUBLIC,  
16 AND IMPLEMENT A PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR AWARDING  
17 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED WHILE IN  
18 THE MILITARY. THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD MUST  
19 REQUIRE EACH CAMPUS OF THE INSTITUTION TO:

20 (a) USE THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION'S  
21 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT, AMONG OTHER  
22 FACTORS, TO EVALUATE COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED BY A  
23 STUDENT WHILE IN THE MILITARY AND, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE  
24 CAMPUS, ASSIGN APPROPRIATE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT;

25 (b) PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO ACTIVE DUTY AND VETERAN  
26 MILITARY MEMBERS IN SELECTING A PROGRAM OF STUDY AND IN  
27 OPTIMIZING THE USE OF PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT TO

1 ACCELERATE THE STUDENT'S PATH TO DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE  
2 COMPLETION IN THE CHOSEN PROGRAM OF STUDY; AND

3 (c) ACCEPT IN TRANSFER FROM WITHIN THE INSTITUTION AND  
4 FROM OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PRIOR LEARNING  
5 ASSESSMENT CREDIT AWARDED FOR COURSES WITH  
6 GUARANTEED-TRANSFER DESIGNATION. EACH CAMPUS MAY ALSO ACCEPT  
7 OTHER PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT TOWARD THE STUDENT'S  
8 PROGRAM OF STUDY IF THE CREDIT MEETS STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY  
9 THE CAMPUS.

10 (3) THE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL GRANT  
11 PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT FREE OF TUITION BUT MAY CHARGE  
12 A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT.

13 (4) (a) DURING THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
14 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION AND STATE,  
15 VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND  
16 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
17 REGARDING THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS'  
18 POLICIES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019.

20 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.