



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 10/6/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1197

Sponsors

*Representatives Carver &
Melton
Senators Todd & Crowder*

Short Title

*Military Veteran Occupational
Credentials*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which became effective on August 10, 2016.

Summary

This bill requires each state agency that certifies, licenses, or registers an occupation to:

- publish a summary of pathways available to military veterans by evaluating the extent to which military training meets state requirements, identifying reciprocity mechanisms in other states, and determining if occupational examinations are available that authorize a veteran to practice;
- consult with community colleges and other post-secondary education institutions about courses or programs that fill the gap between military and civilian occupational training, and refresher courses for lapsed occupational training; and
- consider adopting a national credentialing examination.

State agencies may consult with any federal or state military official or agency, state agency, or postsecondary educational institution to determine how to best implement the requirements of the bill. The bill also provides state agencies with an implementation schedule. State agencies that authorize more than 10 occupations must implement as follows: 25 percent by 2018, 50 percent by 2020, and in total by 2022. For state agencies that authorize less than 10 occupations: 50 percent by 2018, and in total by 2020. Agencies are required to provide an annual implementation report to the General Assembly and relevant committees of reference by June 2017, and each year thereafter until June 2023. The program repeals on July 1, 2023, following a sunset review.

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Background

Professions and occupations in Colorado are primarily regulated by the Department of Regulatory Agencies. Certain professions are also regulated by the Departments of Agriculture, Law, Natural Resources, Public Health and Environment, Revenue, and State.

House Action

House Business Affairs and Labor Committee (February 25, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, United Veterans Committee, Colorado Community College System, and the Military Officers Association of Colorado testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.002 and referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. Amendment L.002 specifies that nothing in the bill gives a state agency the authority to determine curriculum, programs, or courses offered at any postsecondary education institution.

House Appropriations Committee (April 7, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001, which added an appropriations clause, and referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (April 12, 2016). The House adopted the House Business Affairs and Labor and Appropriations Committee reports and passed the bill on second reading.

House third reading (April 14, 2016). The House passed the bill, unamended, on third reading.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (April 25, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the United Veterans Committee and the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee (April 29, 2016). The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar.

Senate second reading (April 29, 2016). The Senate passed the bill, unamended, on second reading.

Senate third reading (May 2, 2016). The Senate passed the bill, unamended, on third reading.