

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0646.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 17-1004

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby 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; however, a standard bachelor's degree can take forty-eight to
15 sixty months to achieve; and

16 (f) We put veterans at increased risk of poverty and failure to
17 complete their postsecondary education by putting them into college
18 classes beneath their level of educational attainment, while at the same
19 time denying veterans the funding necessary to complete a standard
20 postsecondary degree program.

21 (2) Now, therefore, by creating a statewide metric for awarding
22 credit for measurable military education and training, Colorado can
23 ensure an easier pathway to postsecondary degree completion for our

1 veterans.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **add** (4.3)
3 as follows:

4 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**
5 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**
6 **prior learning - repeal.** (4.3) **Credit for military education and**
7 **training.** (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN
8 CONSULTATION WITH EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
9 DEVELOP A STATEWIDE METRIC FOR AWARDING CREDIT FOR MEASURABLE
10 LEARNING FROM MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WITH THE
11 OBJECTIVE OF AWARDING CREDIT, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, FOR
12 CORE COURSES AND COURSES NECESSARY FOR COMPLETION OF A DEGREE
13 OR CERTIFICATE. AS PART OF THE STATEWIDE METRIC, THE COMMISSION
14 SHALL DEFINE A PROCESS FOR STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE MEASURABLE
15 LEARNING FROM MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WHICH PROCESS
16 SHOULD BE BASED UPON THE JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT OF THE VETERAN.
17 BEGINNING IN THE 2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION
18 OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL GRANT CREDIT PURSUANT TO THE
19 STATEWIDE METRIC, WITH FULL COURSE CREDIT FOR COURSES SATISFIED
20 AND FREE TUITION FOR THOSE COURSES.

21 (b) (I) DURING THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT
22 SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION AND STATE, VETERANS, AND MILITARY
23 AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
24 OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, ON THE STATEWIDE METRIC DEVELOPED
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4.3).

26 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.3)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY
27 1, 2019.

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