



HB17-1004

College Credit For Military Education and Training

Sponsors – HOUSE: Rep J. Danielson | Rep D. Michaelson Jenet

SENATE: Sen L. Garcia | Sen O. Hill

The Problem:

- Our service members dedicate years to fighting and winning our nation's battles. In the ever-evolving nature of today's battle-scape, the US Armed Forces demands the best and most specialized training.
- This is creating a new generation of highly skilled medics, nurses, drone operators, military intel analysts, computer coding programmers, logistic and mobilization specialists, among others.
- Despite their professional level skills, service members in transition from a military career to a civilian career are often placed on par with the average high school graduate, when entering higher education institutions.
- Highly skilled veterans must navigate a myriad of individual Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) programs to find the best opportunities for college credit for what they already know. To make the problem worse, PLA policies are OFTEN confusing and information is difficult to access.

The Result:

- Wastes time and money service members must spend working toward a degree and disregards their demonstrated learning and expertise.
- Waste of taxpayer dollars (taxpayer is paying twice for same demonstrated learning)
 - "In FY04 the (average cost of the) 'all volunteer' military was costing... \$112,000 a year for every trooper and officer on active duty." (US Government Accountability Office/US GAO)
 - \$9 billion in education benefits provided to service members and veterans in FY10. (US GAO)
- Service member may be deterred or delayed from graduating into a fulfilling career at a livable wage.

What the Bill Does - Solution

1. Higher education institutions use the American Council on Education's (ACE) recommendation on the Joint Service Transcript (JST) to evaluate college-level learning. (Higher education institutions maintain control in that they may use their standards when evaluating ACE's recommendations BUT the JST provides a standard template to work from.)
2. Shall adopt, make public and implement a PLA policy for awarding credit for college level learning acquired while in the military.
3. Provide specific guidance that maximizes credit toward a career path.
4. A credit is a credit is a credit. When credit is awarded by one institution for demonstrated learning while in service, it must be accepted, as the credit applies to the student's program of study.

Bottom Line: Graduation rates for service members are 2-3 times higher in states that adopt effective and efficient PLA policies. This maximizes the returns to taxpayers and higher education institutions. Most importantly this bill maximizes the time of and recognizes the demonstrated learning of the service member. As introduced, and as amended, the bill has No Fiscal Impact.

Further Info Contact – David Ortiz, (910) 705-0570, uvclegliaison@gmail.com



April 18, 2017

Senator Hill,

My name is Matthew Martinez, I am a Marine Corps and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran and I am in charge of the Veterans program at Adams State University. I helped restart the program at my university seven years ago as student, and have carried that over as an employee. My main goal is to help Veterans transition into civilian life as well as put them on the path that will most benefit them. HB17-1004 can help with this transition by offering degree credit for courses and training earned in the military. This can allow a Veteran to maximize their GI Bill benefits, and possibly allow them to enroll and complete a graduate degree. Additionally, Adams State University is already offering credit for training and courses listed on the student's Joint Service Transcript (JST), however, we can only offer general education credit. This bill crucial and the first step in ensuring that not only does Colorado care about our Veteran population, but we are going to help you as well.

Some of the members of the student Veterans, the Veterans at Adams State, and myself testified on behalf of HB17-1004 in the House Education Committee, and we are planning on testifying before the Senate Education Committee. I am also a Council Member with the City of Monte Vista, I will be unable to testify on Thursday, and additionally, many of my students will be unable to testify in person due to tests, and last minute finals preparations. If the hearing was moved to the week of April 24th, 2017, me and my students would be more than happy to voice our support for this bill. I would greatly appreciate if you would consider this, and I appreciate your time and sponsorship of HB17-1004.

Matthew Martinez
USMC/OIF Veteran
Veterans/Military Affairs Coordinator
Adams State University

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Student Government

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University of Colorado Student Government

University Memorial Center, Room 125, 206 UCB
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From the office of the Tri-Executives

HB17-1004: College Credit for Military Training

Please see below our proposed changes to 2(a):

"ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, EACH GOVERNING BOARD OF A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT, MAKE PUBLIC, AND IMPLEMENT A PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR AWARDED ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED WHILE IN THE MILITARY. THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD MUST REQUIRE EACH CAMPUS OF THE INSTITUTION TO:

(a) USE THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT, AMONG OTHER FACTORS ***THAT THE INSTITUTION MAY UTILIZE***, TO ***PUT IN PLACE A POLICY THAT EVALUATE(S) COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED BY A STUDENT WHILE IN THE MILITARY AND AWARDS CREDIT, AS APPROPRIATE, TO THE VETERAN STUDENT TO BE COUNTED TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THEIR MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY. EACH INSTITUTION SHALL HAVE DISCRETION TO ASSIGN APPROPRIATE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT, PROVIDED THAT A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT IS AWARDED.***