

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the College Credit for Heroes program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0031 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0031. COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HEROES PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(b) The commission shall establish and administer the College Credit for Heroes demonstration program to identify, develop, and support methods to maximize academic or workforce education credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military servicemembers for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service in order to expedite the entry of veterans and military servicemembers into the workforce.

(c) The commission shall work cooperatively with other state agencies, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, public junior colleges, and other institutions of higher education, to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(d) The commission may award grants to state, local, or private entities that perform activities related to the purposes of this section.

1       (e) The commission shall administer the program using money  
2 previously appropriated to the commission or received from federal  
3 or other sources.

4       (f) The commission may adopt rules as necessary for the  
5 administration of this section.

6       (g) Not later than November 1, 2012, the commission, after  
7 consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,  
8 shall report to the legislature and the governor on:

9           (1) the results of any grants awarded under this  
10 section;

11           (2) the best practices for veterans and military  
12 servicemembers to achieve maximum academic or workforce education  
13 credit at institutions of higher education for military experience,  
14 education, and training obtained during military service;

15           (3) measures needed to facilitate the award of  
16 academic or workforce education credit by institutions of higher  
17 education for military experience, education, and training  
18 obtained during military service; and

19           (4) other related measures needed to facilitate the  
20 entry of trained, qualified veterans and military servicemembers  
21 into the workforce.

22       (h) This subsection and Subsection (g) expire January 1,  
23 2013.

24       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

1 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1736 passed the Senate on April 21, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1736 passed the House, with amendment, on May 20, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 149, Nays 0, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor