

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1736

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the College Credit for Heroes
3 program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (e) The commission shall administer the program using money

1 previously appropriated to the commission or received from federal
2 or other sources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.