

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 1736
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2011; March 23, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 11, 2011, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 11, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the establishment of the College Credit for Heroes
1-9 program.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is
1-12 amended by adding Section 302.0031 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 302.0031. COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HEROES PROGRAM. (a) In
1-14 this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning
1-15 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1-16 (b) The commission shall establish and administer the
1-17 College Credit for Heroes demonstration program to identify,
1-18 develop, and support methods to maximize academic credit awarded by
1-19 institutions of higher education to veterans and military
1-20 servicemembers for military experience, education, and training
1-21 obtained during military service in order to expedite the entry of
1-22 veterans and military servicemembers into the workforce.

1-23 (c) The commission shall work cooperatively with other
1-24 state agencies, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
1-25 Board, public junior colleges, and other institutions of higher
1-26 education, to accomplish the purposes of this section.

1-27 (d) The commission may award grants to state, local, or
1-28 private entities that perform activities related to the purposes of
1-29 this section.

1-30 (e) The commission shall administer the program using money
1-31 previously appropriated to the commission or received from federal
1-32 or other sources.

1-33 (f) The commission may adopt rules as necessary for the
1-34 administration of this section.

1-35 (g) Not later than November 1, 2012, the commission, after
1-36 consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,
1-37 shall report to the legislature and the governor on:

1-38 (1) the results of any grants awarded under this
1-39 section;

1-40 (2) the best practices for veterans and military
1-41 servicemembers to achieve maximum academic credit at institutions
1-42 of higher education for military experience, education, and
1-43 training obtained during military service;

1-44 (3) measures needed to facilitate the award of
1-45 academic credit by institutions of higher education for military
1-46 experience, education, and training obtained during military
1-47 service; and

1-48 (4) other related measures needed to facilitate the
1-49 entry of trained, qualified veterans and military servicemembers
1-50 into the workforce.

1-51 (h) This subsection and Subsection (g) expire January 1,
1-52 2013.

1-53 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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