86R16830 JRJ-D

By:  Bell of Montgomery H.B. No. 3601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the accreditation by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of competency-based education degree plans for members of the Texas military forces.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0521 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0521.  ACCREDITATION OF COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION DEGREE PLANS FOR MEMBERS OF TEXAS MILITARY FORCES. (a) In this section, "Texas military forces" has the meaning assigned by Section 437.001, Government Code.

(b)  The board shall accredit, or otherwise approve an accrediting organization recognized by the board to accredit, a degree plan offered in coordination with the Texas Military Department that uses alternative methods of determining mastery of program content, including competency-based education.

(c)  To be eligible for a degree accredited under this section, a person must:

(1)  have graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;

(2)  satisfy the minimum active military service obligation to the Texas military forces for a degree plan as follows:

(A)  for an associate degree, two years of service;

(B)  for a baccalaureate degree, four years of service; and

(C)  for a graduate degree, six years of service; and

(3)  complete and meet the standards of the degree plan.

(d)  The board shall propose rules to establish requirements under which a person's training and experience acquired during the person's military service serves as proof of the person's demonstration of subject matter knowledge if that training and experience are verified by the Texas Military Department.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the accreditation of competency-based education degree plans for members of the Texas military forces established under Section 61.0521, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with degree plans offered for enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic year.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.