

By: Bell of Montgomery, Raymond, Metcalf,  
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H.B. No. 3601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

12 (b) The board may approve an institution of higher education  
13 recognized by the board to offer a degree in coordination with the  
14 Texas Military Department that uses alternative methods of  
15 determining mastery of program content, including competency-based  
16 education.

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

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

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

24 (A) for an associate degree, two years of

1 service;

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

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with degree plans  
14 offered for enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic year.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.