

AN ACT

relating to the recognition 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. RECOGNITION 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 may approve an institution of higher education recognized by the board to offer a degree 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 approved 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

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.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3601 was passed by the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3601 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor