

By: Bell of Montgomery

H.B. No. 3601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the accreditation 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. ACCREDITATION 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 shall accredit, or otherwise approve an  
13 accrediting organization recognized by the board to accredit, a  
14 degree plan offered in coordination with the Texas Military  
15 Department that uses alternative methods of determining mastery of  
16 program content, including competency-based education.

17 (c) To be eligible for a degree accredited under this  
18 section, 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 shall propose rules to establish requirements  
9 under which a person's training and experience acquired during the  
10 person's military service serves 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. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
14 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
15 adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the  
16 accreditation of competency-based education degree plans for  
17 members of the Texas military forces established under Section  
18 61.0521, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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

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