

1-1 By: Bell of Montgomery, et al. H.B. No. 3601  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Menéndez)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019;  
 1-4 May 10, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher  
 1-5 Education; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-6 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to the recognition by the Texas Higher Education  
 1-21 Coordinating Board of competency-based education degree plans for  
 1-22 members of the Texas military forces.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
 1-25 amended by adding Section 61.0521 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 61.0521. RECOGNITION OF COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION  
 1-27 DEGREE PLANS FOR MEMBERS OF TEXAS MILITARY FORCES. (a) In this  
 1-28 section, "Texas military forces" has the meaning assigned by  
 1-29 Section 437.001, Government Code.

1-30 (b) The board may approve an institution of higher education  
 1-31 recognized by the board to offer a degree in coordination with the  
 1-32 Texas Military Department that uses alternative methods of  
 1-33 determining mastery of program content, including competency-based  
 1-34 education.

1-35 (c) To be eligible for a degree approved under this section,  
 1-36 a person must:

1-37 (1) have graduated from high school or received the  
 1-38 equivalent of a high school diploma;

1-39 (2) satisfy the minimum active military service  
 1-40 obligation to the Texas military forces for a degree plan as  
 1-41 follows:

1-42 (A) for an associate degree, two years of  
 1-43 service;

1-44 (B) for a baccalaureate degree, four years of  
 1-45 service; and

1-46 (C) for a graduate degree, six years of service;  
 1-47 and

1-48 (3) complete and meet the standards of the degree  
 1-49 plan.

1-50 (d) The board may propose rules to establish requirements  
 1-51 under which a person's training and experience acquired during the  
 1-52 person's military service serve as proof of the person's  
 1-53 demonstration of subject matter knowledge if that training and  
 1-54 experience are verified by the Texas Military Department.

1-55 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with degree plans  
 1-56 offered for enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic year.

1-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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