

1 AN ACT

2 relating to measures to facilitate the award of postsecondary
3 course credit leading to workforce credentialing based on military
4 experience, education, and training and to prepare veterans for
5 employment in certain industries.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 51.3041(b), Education Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (b) An institution of higher education shall consider, in
10 determining whether to award to a student course credit toward a
11 degree or certificate offered by the institution for the student's
12 completion of certain military training:

13 (1) any official military record presented to the
14 institution by the student that:

15 (A) describes the substance of the training
16 completed by the student; and

17 (B) verifies the student's successful completion
18 of that training; and

19 (2) whether the substance of that training satisfies
20 the purpose of the course for which the student seeks credit as
21 described in the institution's course catalog.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 132, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 132.026 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 132.026. MEASURES TO FACILITATE AWARD OF COURSE CREDIT

1 FOR MILITARY SERVICE. (a) The commission shall evaluate programs
2 of study or courses offered by career schools or colleges leading to
3 industry-based certifications or other workforce credentials to
4 identify programs or courses for which skills obtained through
5 military experience, education, and training frequently align.

6 (b) The commission shall publish on its Internet website a
7 list of any programs of study or courses identified by the
8 commission under this section and the relevant military experience,
9 education, or training that may align with those programs or
10 courses.

11 SECTION 3. Section 132.055, Education Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

13 (c) In determining whether to approve a career school or
14 college that offers a program of study or course listed on the
15 commission's Internet website under Section 132.026(b), in
16 addition to the criteria prescribed by Subsection (b) of this
17 section, the commission shall require that the career school or
18 college provide credit to a student toward any course time required
19 for the program of study or course for skills obtained by the
20 student through military experience, education, or training,
21 unless the school or college can demonstrate that those skills are
22 not appropriately aligned with the program of study or course.

23 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 434.027 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 434.027. ENERGY INDUSTRY PROGRAM FOR VETERAN
26 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (a) The Texas Veterans Commission shall
27 develop and administer a program to provide assistance to veterans

1 seeking a certification or training to prepare for employment in
2 the energy industry.

3 (b) The commission, in coordination with the General Land
4 Office and Veterans' Land Board, shall conduct an outreach campaign
5 to encourage veterans to participate in the program established
6 under this section.

7 (c) The commission shall adopt rules to implement the
8 program established under this section.

9 SECTION 5. Section 302.0031, Labor Code, is amended by
10 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (i) to read as
11 follows:

12 (a) In this section:

13 (1) "Career school or college" has the meaning
14 assigned by Section 132.001, Education Code.

15 (2) "Institution[, "institution]" of higher education"
16 has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

17 (i) Under the program, the commission shall identify,
18 develop, and support methods to facilitate the award of course time
19 credit by career schools or colleges or other private or nonprofit
20 entities providing programs of study or courses of instruction
21 leading to industry certifications or other workforce credentials
22 to veterans and military servicemembers for military experience,
23 education, or training obtained during military service for
24 programs of study or courses of instruction offered by those
25 schools, colleges, or other entities for which skills obtained
26 through military experience, education, and training align.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 33 was passed by the House on April 1, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 33 on May 12, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 33 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 4, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor