- 1 HB338
- 2 149149-3
- 3 By Representatives Lee, McMillan, Hubbard (M), Chesteen,
- Boothe, Grimsley, Clouse, Collins, Greer, Nordgren,
- 5 Sanderford, Carns, Sessions, Patterson, Buttram, Gaston,
- 6 Fincher, Johnson (K) and Beckman
- 7 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 8 First Read: 21-FEB-13

1	<u>ENGROSSED</u>
2	
3	
4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
7	
8	To facilitate the ability of discharged military
9	service members receiving licensure and academic credit for
10	military education, training, and experience; and to provide
11	that a license of a service member shall remain in good
12	standing, with certain exemptions, while the member is
13	deployed, and for a certain period of time.
14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
15	Section 1. Legislative Findings.
16	The Legislature recognizes the importance of active
17	military personnel, veterans, and military facilities to the
18	well-being, safety, and economic development of the State of
19	Alabama. The Legislature further recognizes and finds that
20	discharged service members leave the military with documented
21	training and experience that can prepare them for civilian
22	employment; however, this documentation is not always able to
23	result in qualifying them for licenses required for their
24	occupation or providing them with academic credit. By
25	providing for expedited licensure and increased academic

credit recognition for a service member's military training

26

and experience, the state can help promote the employment of veterans.

Section 2. Occupational Licenses Based on Military Education, Training, or Service.

Each of the examining boards, licensing boards, and departments described in Chapters 1 through 43 of Title 34 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, shall, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for certification or licensure, accept education, training, or service completed by an individual as a member of the Armed Forces or reserves of the United States, the National Guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any state toward the qualifications to receive the license or certification. Each such board and department shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

Section 3. Academic Credits Based on Military Education, Training, or Service.

Each board of a state public educational institution, community college, or technical school shall adopt, by December 31, 2013, a policy requiring each institution under the board's supervision and management to award educational credits to a student, who is also a veteran, enrolled in the institution for courses that are part of the student's military training or service and that meet the standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit if the award of education credit is based upon the institution's admission

standards and its role, scope, and mission. Each board shall
adopt necessary rules, regulations, and procedures to

implement the provisions of this section, effective beginning
with the 2014-2015 academic year and continuing thereafter.

Section 4. Extension of Licensing for Military Service Members.

- (a) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any member of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be kept in good standing by the administrative or licensing body with which he or she is licensed or certified while on active duty if, at the time of activation, either of the following applies:
- (1) The member was in good standing and with any administrative or licensing body of the state.
- (2) The member was duly licensed or certified to engage in his or her profession or vocation in Alabama.

shall be left in good standing until, at a minimum,

December 31, of the first year following the end of his or her

deployment, by the administrative or licensing body with which

he or she is licensed or certified, while deployed, if at the

time of deployment, the member was in good standing with the

branch of the armed services and with the administrative

licensing body.

(b) While a licensee or certificate holder is an active duty deployed as a member of the Armed Forces of the

1	United States, the license or certificate referenced in
2	subdivision (1) shall be renewed without:
3	(1) The payment of dues or fees;
4	(2) Obtaining continuing education credits when:
5	a. Circumstances associated with military duty
6	prevent obtaining training and a waiver request has been
7	submitted to the appropriate administrative body; or
8	b. The active duty military member performs the
9	licensed or certified occupation as part of his or her
10	military duties as annotated in Defense Department form 214
11	(DD214); or
12	(3) Performing any other act typically required for
13	the renewal of the license or certificate.
14	(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the
15	licensing board, in its discretion, may require that the
16	licensee receive additional credits within the year following
17	the end of the deployment.
18	(d) Licensees of the Alabama State Bar are regulated
19	by the Alabama Supreme Court and are therefore exempt from
20	this section. The court may provide waivers and exemptions for
21	active duty and deployed military members.
22	(c) The license or certificate issued under this
23	section shall be continued as long as the licensee or
24	certificate holder is a member of the Armed Forces of the
25	United States on active duty and for a period of at least six

26 months after discharge from active duty.

1 Section 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to 2 infringe on the ability or decision of a public institution of higher education to determine the number of credits accepted 3 by the institution that may be counted toward graduation. Section 6. If a court of competent jurisdiction 5 6 adjudges invalid or unconstitutional any clause, sentence, 7 paragraph, section, or part of this act, such judgment or decree shall not affect, impair, invalidate, or nullify the 8 remainder of this act, but the effect of the decision shall be 9 10 confined to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this act adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional. 11 12 Section 7. All laws or parts of laws which conflict 13 with this act are repealed. Section 8. This act shall become effective 14 15 immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law. 16

1	
2	
3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7	Read for the first time and re- ferred to the House of Representa- tives committee on Boards, Agencies and Commissions
8	
9	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 2 amendments 07-MAR-13
11	
12 13	Read for the third time and passed as amended
14	Yeas 100, Nays 0, Abstains 0
15 16 17 18	Jeff Woodard Clerk