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CS/HB 1157, Engrossed 1

2016 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to postsecondary education for
 3 veterans; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.; directing the
 4 Department of Education to award certain postsecondary
 5 course credit to veterans; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.;
 6 directing the Department of Education to award
 7 postsecondary course credit for specified examinations
 8 and tests; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; revising the
 9 residency requirement for certain tuition waivers for
 10 recipients of specified military decorations;
 11 conforming provisions; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.;
 12 providing that specified programs and test scores meet
 13 certain educator certification requirements; providing
 14 an effective date.

15
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17
 18 Section 1. Section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended
 19 to read:

20 1004.096 College credit for military training and
 21 education courses.—The Board of Governors shall adopt
 22 regulations and the State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 23 that enable eligible servicemembers or veterans ~~members~~ of the
 24 United States Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at
 25 public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level
 26 training and education acquired in the military. The regulations



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27 and rules shall include procedures for credential evaluation and
28 the award of academic college credit, including, but not limited
29 to, equivalency and alignment of military coursework with
30 appropriate college courses, course descriptions, type and
31 amount of college credit that may be awarded, and transfer of
32 credit.

33 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1007.27, Florida
34 Statutes, is amended to read:

35 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

36 (2) The Department of Education shall annually identify
37 and publish the minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or
38 courses for which credit is to be awarded for each College Level
39 Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination, College Board
40 Advanced Placement Program examination, Advanced International
41 Certificate of Education examination, ~~and~~ International
42 Baccalaureate examination, Excelsior College subject
43 examination, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
44 Support (DANTES) subject standardized test, and Defense Language
45 Proficiency Test (DLPT). The department shall use student
46 performance data in subsequent postsecondary courses to
47 determine the appropriate examination scores and courses for
48 which credit is to be granted. Minimum scores may vary by
49 subject area based on available performance data. In addition,
50 the department shall identify such courses in the general
51 education core curriculum of each state university and Florida
52 College System institution.



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53 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (8) of
54 section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

55 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

56 (8) A state university, a Florida College System
57 institution, a career center operated by a school district under
58 s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive
59 tuition for undergraduate college credit programs and career
60 certificate programs for each recipient of a Purple Heart or
61 another combat decoration superior in precedence who:

62 (b) Is currently, or ~~and~~ was at the time of the military
63 action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or
64 other combat decoration superior in precedence, a resident of
65 this state; and

66 (c) Submits to the ~~state~~ university, ~~the Florida College~~
67 ~~System~~ institution, or ~~the career center operated by a school~~
68 ~~district under s. 1001.44, or the charter technical career~~
69 ~~center~~ the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from
70 service as documentation that the student has received a Purple
71 Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence. If
72 the DD-214 is not available, other documentation may be
73 acceptable if recognized by the United States Department of
74 Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as
75 documenting the award.

76
77 Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of
78 another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be



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79 applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit
 80 hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student
 81 is enrolled.

82 Section 4. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (5) of
 83 section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended and paragraphs
 84 (g) and (h) are added to that subsection, to read:

85 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

86 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 87 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

88 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 89 teaching certificate issued by another state; ~~or~~

90 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 91 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 92 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 93 Education;

94 (g) Documentation of successful completion of a United
 95 States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
 96 program; or

97 (h) Documentation of a passing score on the Defense
 98 Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

99
 100 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for middle
 101 grades teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to
 102 obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through
 103 postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

104 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.