SENATE BILL NO. 27

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BY SENATORS FOIL, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FIELDS, HARRIS, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT AND WOMACK

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3138.5(A), (B)(1), the introductory paragraph of (B)(2),
3	(B)(2)(a), and (D)(4), and 3165.2(A), (B), (C)(1)(b), and (E), relative to
4	postsecondary education; to expand the eligibility for designation as military and
5	veteran friendly campus to all postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana; to
6	provide for the transfer of academic and workforce credits earned by military
7	members and their spouses to Louisiana's public postsecondary education
8	institutions; and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. $17:3138.5(A)$ , $(B)(1)$ , the introductory paragraph of $(B)(2)$ , $(B)(2)(a)$ ,
11	and (D)(4), and 3165.2(A), (B), (C)(1)(b), and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
12	as follows:
13	§3138.5. Military and veteran friendly campus; designation; process; eligibility;
14	applications
15	A.(1) The legislature finds that military veterans need comprehensive,
16	statewide support to aid them in transition from military service to enrollment in
17	public postsecondary education institutions. This support should encourage such the
18	enrollment of veterans and address issues that may deter their participation in public
19	postsecondary education. These issues include but are not limited to affordability, lack of
20	awareness by postsecondary faculty and staff of veterans' culture, the need for orientation
21	and mentoring programs designed specifically for veterans, and the facilitation of credit
22	completion by veterans as efficiently and quickly as possible.

(2) The purpose of this Section is to provide formal recognition by the

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1	governor of state public postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana that
2	successfully create a supportive environment for military veterans.
3	B.(1) The Board of Regents shall establish a process for a public
4	postsecondary education institution to be designated as a "Governor's Military and
5	Veteran Friendly Campus" beginning with the Fall 2015 semester.
6	(2) To be eligible to receive the designation as specified in Paragraph (1) of
7	this Subsection, an institution shall, at a minimum, meet all of the following
8	criteria:
9	(a)(i)Adopt For public postsecondary education institutions, adopt and
10	fully implement the military articulation and transfer process as provided in R.S.
11	17:3165.2.
12	(ii) For nonpublic postsecondary education institutions, adopt and fully
13	implement a military friendly articulation and transfer process that aligns with
14	nationally recognized standards for evaluating educational experiences in the
15	<b>United States Armed Forces.</b>
16	* * *
17	D. * * *
18	(4) After receiving the initial designation by the governor, an institution
19	annually shall submit a renewal application to the Board of Regents in accordance
20	with the time lines established by the board. Each renewal application shall include
21	a report that, at a minimum, contains all of the following information from the
22	previous year as it relates to veterans:
23	(a) The number granted application fee waivers.
24	(b) The number who attended the specialized orientation program and a
25	description of the orientation program.
26	(c) The number who participated in the priority class registration.
27	(d) The number who benefitted from the military articulation and transfer
28	process as provided in R.S. 17:3165.2 Subparagraph (B)(2)(a) of this Section, the
29	number of credits hours accepted through the transfer process, and a list of the
30	courses credited through the transfer process.

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1	(e) The completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children.
2	(f) Other military friendly information identified by the Board of
3	Regents.
4	* * *
5	§3165.2. College credit for military service; spouses of veterans
6	A.(1) Each articulation and transfer agreement developed and implemented
7	in accordance with this Chapter shall maximize the number of academic or
8	workforce education credits awarded to veterans of the United States Armed Forces
9	for their military education, training, or experience and provide for their seamless
10	transfer from military service to enrollment in any Louisiana public
11	postsecondary education institution and from one public postsecondary education
12	institution to another.
13	(2) The council shall use the "Guide to the Evaluation of Educational
14	Experiences in the Armed Services" and the standards of the American Council on
15	Education nationally recognized standards for evaluating educational
16	experiences in the United States Armed Forces to govern the award of academic
17	or workforce credit for military education, training, or experience.
18	B. Each public postsecondary education institution shall assist veterans of the
19	United States Armed Forces and their spouses in pursuing their educational goals by
20	providing expedited transcript analysis, prior learning assessment, portfolio analysis,
21	advising, and testing. At Upon the disclosure of military status on the application
22	for enrollment or at the request of an entering student who is a veteran or the
23	spouse of a veteran, each public postsecondary education institution shall evaluate
24	any transcript of prior earned postsecondary academic or workforce credit and
25	accept the transfer of any credit earned from a regionally accredited postsecondary
26	institution, or military education, training, or experience provided that the credit
27	aligns with the course and program requirements of the receiving institution.
28	C.(1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall coordinate and
29	oversee the development of a military articulation and transfer process that shall be
30	adhered to by all public postsecondary education institutions and that shall:

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1 2 (b) Provide for the transfer of academic and workforce credit hours earned 3 by a veteran or the spouse of a veteran from a postsecondary education institution 4 that offers academic coursework to military personnel and their spouses, provided 5 such institution is accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting body and the credit to be transferred is aligned with the course and program requirements of the 6 7 receiving institution. 8 9 E.(1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall meet not later 10 than September 15, 2015, to begin the process of implementing the provisions of this 11 Section. 12 (2) The provisions of this Section shall be fully implemented not later than 13 the beginning of the Spring semester of the 2015-2016 academic year. For the 14 purposes of this Section, "veteran" shall have the meaning as provided in R.S. 15 **13:5364.** 16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not 17 18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature 19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If 20 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval. 21 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA APPROVED: