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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR COMBAT VETERANS

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, Felag, Bates, Ottiano, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 30 of the General Laws entitled "MILITARY AFFAIRS AND  
2 DEFENSE" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 30.2

4 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMBAT VETERANS

5 **30-30.2-1. Short title.** – This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education  
6 Assistance For Combat Veterans Act."

7 **30-30.2-2. Statement of purpose.** – It is hereby found and declared as follows: (1) The  
8 fundamental freedoms enjoyed by all citizens of our state and these United States are insured in  
9 no small part through the honorable service of our nation's military veterans;

10 (2) The people of the state have a deep debt of gratitude for the sacrifices made by these  
11 men and women who as combat veterans placed their lives in harm's way to protect and defend  
12 our nation from all foreign enemies and terrorist threats; and

13 (3) These men and women should be allowed to resume their education, receive academic  
14 credit commensurate with their military training and experience, graduate, and ultimately obtain  
15 meaningful civilian employment upon their return to Rhode Island without delay.

16 **30-30.2-3. Academic credit for military training and coursework.** – The state board of  
17 education shall ensure:

18 (1) Enrolled students are awarded education credits based upon their military training or

1 service when academically appropriate; and  
2 (2) Establishment of a preferential class registration process for all state institutions,  
3 which shall be reviewed and approved by the board of education to allow combat veterans to  
4 register first for all classes at any state-run institution of higher education. In developing rules and  
5 regulations, the office of the commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the adjutant  
6 general of the Rhode Island national guard, shall determine individual preference ranking among  
7 combat veterans, including, but not limited to, the number of combat tours served, service  
8 awards, and any other such criteria deemed appropriate by the adjutant general.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
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1           This act would establish various veteran-friendly educational programs for all state  
2 institutions in order to allow service personnel returning from a combat tour to achieve  
3 educational attainment in an accelerated manner.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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