



HOUSE BILL 171 – POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL

BILL SPONSOR(S)	Representative Ponder, Representative Hattersley and Higher Education and Career Readiness Subcommittee
EFFECTIVE DATE(S)	Upon becoming law
STATUTE(S)	Amends sections 1004.096 and 1009.26, Florida Statutes

SUMMARY

Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) and the State Board of Education (SBOE), in consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to create a process for the uniform award of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to certain servicemembers and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. This includes the establishment of an Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) workgroup that will be responsible for developing the process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and minimum postsecondary credit or career clock hours.

Requires certain military personnel transcript fees to be waived by specified postsecondary institutions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Creates a process that enables servicemembers or veterans to earn uniform postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for training and education acquired during service.
- Requires career centers, State University System (SUS) and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to award credit or clock hours for courses deemed equivalent of courses taken and occupations held while in the military, if the courses are applicable to the student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award additional credit or clock hours if appropriate.
- Requires career centers, charter technical career centers, SUS and FCS institutions to waive the transcript fee for active duty members or honorably discharged veterans, and the spouse and dependents of both.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

UPON BECOMING LAW	Postsecondary institutions are to waive the transcript fee for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, certain veterans, and their spouses and dependents
--------------------------	--



2020 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

JULY 15, 2020

The ACC shall convene a workgroup to develop the process determining postsecondary course equivalencies and minimum postsecondary credit or career clock hours to be awarded.

DECEMBER 1, 2020

The workgroup shall provide recommendations to the BOG and the SBOE for approval at the next meeting of each board

**ONE YEAR FROM BOG
AND SBOE APPROVAL**

The ACC shall approve a prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours

ANNUALLY

The ACC must update the prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours, and the BOG and SBOE shall timely adopt the updated list