

1 AN ACT relating to a Veterans' Bill of Rights.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 40 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The Commonwealth of Kentucky hereby creates the Veterans' Bill of Rights in*  
6 *order to:*

7 *(a) Increase veterans' access to jobs;*

8 *(b) Apply smart labor force data to direct veterans to in-demand fields;*

9 *(c) Increase veterans' access to college degrees, certificates, and licenses;*

10 *(d) Ensure state licensing boards recognize veterans' military training and*  
11 *experience;*

12 *(e) Award college credit for related military experiences and training;*

13 *(f) Increase flexibility in course registration to reflect returning veterans'*  
14 *needs; and*

15 *(g) Expand proven cost-effective training programs that leverage veterans'*  
16 *experiences.*

17 *(2) (a) The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet is hereby directed to*  
18 *produce monthly electronic reports of workforce need projections, by*  
19 *industry, job type, geography, and needed credential, that include a*  
20 *comparison of workforce needs with existing and projected workforce and*  
21 *credential availability in Kentucky and highlight top in-demand industries,*  
22 *job types, and credentials by geographic area.*

23 *(b) The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet shall include in the*  
24 *reports a mapping of which in-demand job titles and credentials would*  
25 *leverage skills, experience, and credentials possessed by veterans, and shall*  
26 *forward the underlying data report and that additional information monthly*  
27 *to appropriate military out-placement offices, education centers, nonprofit*

1           programs working to connect veterans with jobs, and the Kentucky  
2           Department of Veterans' Affairs.

3   (3) The Department of Transportation is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to  
4   annually increase the number of veterans taking advantage of the Federal Motor  
5   Carrier Safety Administration's Military Skills Test Waiver Program, including  
6   ensuring information on the program is accessible on the Department of  
7   Transportation's homepage, coordinating with military placement and training  
8   programs, including the Credentialing Opportunities Online program, and  
9   disseminating information about the program to veterans with relevant  
10   experience who are newly locating in Kentucky.

11   (4) The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services shall immediately review all  
12   licensing practices and promulgate administrative regulations that are necessary  
13   and appropriate to increase recognition of military training and experience  
14   toward in-state licensing. The board shall report to the General Assembly within  
15   three hundred sixty-five (365) days of the effective date of this Act any additional  
16   steps that would require legislation and request that the General Assembly pass  
17   that legislation.

18   (5) The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure shall immediately review all licensing  
19   practices and promulgate administrative regulations that are necessary and  
20   appropriate to increase recognition of military training and experience toward in-  
21   state licensing. The board shall report to the General Assembly within three  
22   hundred sixty-five (365) days of the effective date of this Act any additional steps  
23   that would require legislation and request that the General Assembly pass that  
24   legislation.

25   (6) The Transportation Cabinet is hereby directed to review all state licenses for  
26   which military members may have relevant training or experience and, within  
27   three hundred sixty-five (365) days of the effective of this Act, produce a report

1 recommending steps that can be taken to increase recognition of military training  
2 and experience toward in-state licensing. As soon as practicable, and no later  
3 than three hundred sixty-five (365) days after issuance of the report, the  
4 Transportation Cabinet shall take any steps identified in the report that can be  
5 taken without further legislation, and shall report to the General Assembly  
6 annually to request it enact any necessary legislation.

7 (7) The Council on Postsecondary Education in Kentucky shall adopt procedures  
8 necessary to fully implement this section and promulgate administrative  
9 regulations requiring public postsecondary institutions to provide credit for  
10 military training and experience based on policy established by the council.

11 (8) Every veteran who enrolls as a student in good standing at a public  
12 postsecondary institution shall, upon application, be granted academic credits  
13 without limitation towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were  
14 part of the veteran's military training or service if the completed courses meet the  
15 standards of the American Council on Education or its equivalent for the  
16 awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed  
17 against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section.

18 (9) Public postsecondary institutions shall:

19 (a) Allow early course registration to students who are veterans or members of  
20 the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard if the  
21 institution offers an early course registration period for any segment of the  
22 student population;

23 (b) Ensure a student who is called to active duty in the United States Armed  
24 Forces, Reserves, or National Guard after having attended regularly for  
25 thirteen (13) or more weeks or having completed eighty-five percent (85%)  
26 of the term's work through acceleration shall be given full credit for each  
27 course in which he or she has a grade of C or better;

- 1        (c) Allow students called to active duty who do not meet attendance  
2                    requirements sufficient to earn a grade to be entitled to a one hundred  
3                    percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees;
- 4        (d) Permit veterans with no previous college experience to file applications up  
5                    to the end of registration and be allowed to begin classes pending  
6                    completion of their application and provision of supporting documents; and
- 7        (e) Allow veterans returning from active duty to register even after normal  
8                    registration periods end, without late fees or other penalties.
- 9        (10) The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet shall annually review  
10                    apprentice, training, and other vocational programs focused on providing job  
11                    training and placement to returning military service members and veterans. The  
12                    annual review shall evaluate the costs and results of programs, recommend  
13                    programs for expansion with state funding, and include an estimate on future  
14                    returns to the state of improved outcomes from program expansion.
- 15        (11) The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet shall provide an annual  
16                    report to the General Assembly and to the Governor on January 1 of each year  
17                    for five (5) years after the effective date of this Act, to be used to inform annual  
18                    budget decisions.