

1 AN ACT relating to state benefits for veterans.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 40.010 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following respective meanings,
5 unless another meaning is clearly required by the context:

6 (1) "Administrator" means the adjutant general of the Commonwealth;

7 (2) "Veteran" means a person who:

8 **(a)** Served in the active Armed Forces of the United States, during the Spanish -
9 American War, World War I, World War II, or the Korean conflict, for a
10 period of ninety (90) days or more (exclusive of time spent AWOL; or in
11 penal confinement as a result of a sentence imposed by court-martial; or in
12 service for which no allowance is made according to KRS 40.040), with some
13 portion of service within the respective hereinafter prescribed dates; **and**,-
14 ~~who~~ }

15 **(b) 1. Is**~~is~~ still in the Armed Forces;

16 **2. Was**~~[- or was]~~ released, separated, discharged, or retired therefrom under
17 honorable conditions; **or**

18 **3. Was released, separated, discharged, or retired therefrom under**
19 **conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

20 **a. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran, as defined in this section; or**

21 **b. Has a qualifying condition, as defined in this section;**

22 (3) "Duty in active Armed Forces" includes active duty, and any period of inactive duty
23 training during which the individual concerned was disabled; and if a person in the
24 active Armed Forces was released, separated, or discharged therefrom by reason of
25 disability incurred in line of duty before serving as much as ninety (90) days, such
26 person shall be qualified for entitlement to a bonus payment under this chapter,
27 notwithstanding failure to remain in service for the minimum time otherwise

- 1 prescribed;
- 2 (4) "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force,
3 and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof on active duty;
- 4 (5) "Qualified veteran" means a person answering to the specifications set forth in
5 subsections (2) and (3), and who
- 6 (a) Was a resident of the Commonwealth at the time of entry into active service in
7 the Armed Forces and for at least six (6) months prior thereto; and
- 8 (b) Who has not received a bonus or like compensation from another state; and
- 9 (c) Who is not subject to the forfeiture provisions of this chapter;
- 10 (6) "Resident of the Commonwealth at the time of entry into the active service" means
11 any person who gave the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or any specific place in this
12 Commonwealth, as his or her place of residence at such time of entry, without
13 regard to the place of enlistment, commission, or induction. Conclusive and
14 exclusive evidence of such giving of place of residence shall be the official records
15 on file in the Department of Defense of the United States, or any official record
16 thereof in the files of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; but if it be
17 shown to the satisfaction of the administrator that for any reason no such record was
18 made, or that the same has been lost, misplaced, or destroyed, or that an
19 authenticated copy thereof cannot be obtained within a reasonable time, other
20 evidence of bona fide residence may be accepted if deemed sufficient by the
21 administrator;
- 22 (7) "Resident," in any context other than as in subsection (6), means a legal resident as
23 determined by generally established principles of law, as may be defined, and
24 subject to proof, according to such regulations as the administrator may promulgate;
- 25 (8) "Beneficiary" means, in this order, widow, child or children (sharing equally),
26 mother, father, and no other;
- 27 (9) (a) "Widow" means a woman who was the wife of a veteran at the time of his

1 death, and who had not deserted him (except where there was a separation
2 which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the
3 fault of the wife), and who had not remarried, (unless the purported
4 remarriage was void or had been annulled);

5 (b) The term "widow" also includes "widower" in the case of a man who was the
6 husband of a female veteran at the time of her death;

7 (10) "Child" means a person:

8 (a) Who is under the age of eighteen (18); or

9 (b) Who, before attaining the age of eighteen (18) years, became permanently
10 incapable of self-support; or

11 (c) Who, after attaining the age of eighteen (18) years and until completion of
12 education or training (but not after attaining the age of twenty-one (21) years)
13 is pursuing a course of instruction at a bona fide educational institution; and
14 who, in relationship to the veteran, is a child born in lawful wedlock; a legally
15 adopted child; a stepchild who is a member of a veteran's household or was a
16 member at the time of the veteran's death; or a child born out of wedlock, but,
17 as to the alleged father, only if acknowledged in writing signed by him, or if
18 he had, before his death, been judicially decreed to be the father of such child;

19 (11) "Mother" means a mother, a mother through adoption, or a woman who for a period
20 of not less than one (1) year stood in the relationship of a mother to a qualified
21 veteran before his or her entry into active service in the Armed Forces, or if two (2)
22 persons stood in such relationship for one (1) year or more, the person who last
23 stood in such relationship before the veteran's last entry into active service in the
24 Armed Forces;

25 (12) "Father" means a father, a father through adoption, or a man who for a period of not
26 less than one (1) year stood in the relationship of a father to a qualified veteran
27 before his or her entry into active service in the Armed Forces, or if two (2) persons

- 1 stood in such relationship for one (1) year or more, the person who last stood in
2 such relationship before the veteran's last entry into active service in the Armed
3 Forces;
- 4 (13) "In the continental United States" means any place in the District of Columbia and
5 the states of the United States which are on the North American continent,
6 exclusive of Alaska;
- 7 (14) "Outside the continental United States" means any place elsewhere than as defined
8 in subsection (13);
- 9 (15) "Spanish-American War":
- 10 (a) Means the period beginning on April 21, 1898, and ending on July 4, 1902;
- 11 (b) Includes the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion; and
- 12 (c) In the case of a veteran who served with the United States military forces
13 engaged in hostilities in the Moro Province, means the period beginning on
14 April 21, 1898, and ending on July 15, 1903;
- 15 (16) "World War I":
- 16 (a) Means the period beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on November 11,
17 1918; and
- 18 (b) In the case of a veteran who served with the United States military forces in
19 Russia, means the period beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on April 1,
20 1920; and
- 21 (c) Any service between April 6, 1917, and July 1, 1921, if some part thereof was
22 between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates being inclusive;
- 23 (17) "World War II" means the period beginning December 7, 1941, and ending
24 December 31, 1946;
- 25 (18) "Korean conflict" means the period beginning on June 27, 1950, and ending January
26 31, 1955;
- 27 (19) "Bonus" and "veterans' bonus" means the compensation authorized by this chapter;

1 (20) "Bonus claim" means a claim or potential claim for a veterans' bonus;

2 (21) "Claimant" means one who seeks to obtain payment of a bonus claim;[-]

3 **(22) "Discharged LGBTQ veteran" means a person who:**

4 **(a) Served in the active Armed Forces of the United States, during the Spanish-**
 5 **American War, World War I, World War II, or the Korean conflict, for a**
 6 **period of ninety (90) days or more (exclusive of time spent AWOL; or in**
 7 **penal confinement as a result of a sentence imposed by court-martial; or in**
 8 **service for which no allowance is made according to KRS 40.040), with**
 9 **some portion of service within the respective previously prescribed dates;**
 10 **and**

11 **(b) Was discharged less than honorably from military service due to:**

12 **1. His or her actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or**
 13 **expression;**

14 **2. Statements, consensual sexual conduct, or consensual acts relating to**
 15 **sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; or**

16 **3. The disclosure of those statements, conduct, or acts;**
 17 **that were prohibited by the military service at the time of discharge; and**

18 **(23) "Qualifying condition" means a diagnosis, made by a health care professional**
 19 **employed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, of:**

20 **(a) Service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder;**

21 **(b) Service-connected traumatic brain injury; or**

22 **(c) Any other condition which resulted from physical assault of a sexual**
 23 **nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred**
 24 **while the former member of the Armed Forces was serving on duty,**
 25 **regardless of duty status or line of duty determination.**

26 ➔Section 2. KRS 40.310 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall collect all necessary data and information

1 regarding facilities and services available to veterans, their families, and
2 dependents, and shall cooperate with all information or service agencies throughout
3 the state in informing such persons regarding the existence or availability of all
4 educational, training, and retraining facilities; health, medical, rehabilitation, and
5 housing services and facilities; employment and reemployment services; provisions
6 of federal, state, and local laws affording rights, privileges, and benefits to said
7 persons, their families, and dependents, and all other matters of similar related or
8 appropriate nature. It shall likewise be the duty of the department to assist veterans
9 and their families and dependents in the presentation, proof, and establishment of
10 all claims, privileges, rights, and other benefits which they may have under federal,
11 state, or local laws, and to cooperate with all national, state, and local government
12 and private agencies securing services or any benefits to veterans, their families, and
13 dependents.

14 (2) The commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall prepare and submit
15 to the Governor and each member of the board an annual report with reference to
16 claims presented on behalf of veterans and to otherwise report the activities and
17 accomplishments of the department.

18 (3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be authorized to apply for and accept
19 gifts, grants, and other contributions from the federal government, or from any other
20 governmental unit which funds shall be administered by the department through use
21 of trust and agency accounts.

22 (4) Veterans, as used in KRS 40.305 to 40.310, include any individual who served on
23 active duty during peace or war in the Armed Forces of the United States, and who: ~~f~~
24 ~~has~~

25 (a) Received~~received~~ an honorable discharge from such service; or

26 (b) Received a discharge other than a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge,

27 and:

1 **1. Has a qualifying condition; or**

2 **2. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran.**

3 (5) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall maintain full, adequate, and complete
4 copies of all records pertaining to claims of veterans who file said claims for
5 benefits through the department.

6 (6) The commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs may purchase liability
7 insurance for the protection of employees of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to
8 protect them from liability for acts, omissions, and claims arising in the course and
9 scope of their employment or service to the department.

10 (7) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall manage the veterans' program trust fund
11 established by KRS 40.460 by hosting all board meetings, providing logistical
12 support, recording the minutes of each meeting, and authorizing expenditures once
13 the board has approved a request for funds.

14 **(8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall:**

15 **(a) Promulgate administrative regulations to establish a consistent and uniform**
16 **process to identify the status and eligibility of individuals as discharged**
17 **LGBTQ veterans in the presentation or establishment of all claims,**
18 **privileges, rights, and other benefits which individuals may have under state**
19 **or local law; and**

20 **(b) Develop a standardized form used to confirm that a veteran has a qualifying**
21 **condition.**

22 ➔Section 3. KRS 12.245 is amended to read as follows:

23 (1) An administrative body that issues a license, permit, certificate, or other document
24 required to operate within a business, profession, or other occupation in the
25 Commonwealth shall issue within thirty (30) days of receipt of a completed
26 application a license, permit, certificate, or other document to a member of the
27 United States military, Reserves, or National Guard, or to his or her spouse, or to a

1 veteran or the spouse of a veteran, who is seeking a license, permit, certificate, or
2 other document and currently holds or recently held equivalent documentation
3 issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of
4 the United States unless:

5 (a) The license, permit, certificate, or other document issued by another state, the
6 District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of the United States has
7 been expired for more than two (2) years;

8 (b) The license, permit, certificate, or other documentation is not in good
9 standing;

10 (c) The holder of the license, permit, certificate, or other document has had the
11 license, permit, certificate, or other document suspended for disciplinary
12 reasons; or

13 (d) The board can show substantive evidence of significant statutory deficiency in
14 the training, education, or experience of the United States military service
15 member, Reserves or National Guard member, veteran, or spouse, which
16 could cause a health or safety risk to the public.

17 (2) The United States military service member, Reserves or National Guard member,
18 veteran, or spouse shall submit:

19 (a) Proof of issuance of a valid license, permit, certificate, or other document
20 issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory
21 of the United States that is active or has been expired for less than two (2)
22 years;

23 (b) Proof that the valid license, permit, certificate, or other document issued by
24 another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of the
25 United States is in good standing or was upon the date of expiration; and

26 (c) His or her DD-214 form or other proof of active or prior military service with:
27 I. An honorable discharge, discharge under honorable conditions, or a

1 general discharge under honorable conditions; or

2 **2. A discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, if the individual**
 3 **also submits evidence of a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1**
 4 **of this Act or status as a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in**
 5 **Section 1 of this Act.**

6 (3) A United States military service member, Reserves or National Guard member,
 7 veteran, or spouse who holds a license, permit, certificate, or other document issued
 8 by another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of the
 9 United States who applies for a license, permit, certificate, or other document
 10 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and is denied shall have the right to appeal
 11 the decision in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

12 ➔Section 4. KRS 12.354 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) As used in this section, "administrative body" has the same meaning as in KRS
 14 12.010.

15 (2) Each administrative body that issues a license, permit, certificate, or other document
 16 that is required to operate within any business, profession, or occupation in the
 17 Commonwealth may issue a license, permit, certificate, or other document, or a
 18 temporary license, permit, certificate, or other document to a United States military
 19 service member or veteran who is seeking a license, permit, certificate, or other
 20 document under this section and has:

21 (a) Separated from the military **within two (2) years preceding the date of**
 22 **applying for the license, permit, certificate, or other document,** with:

23 **1.** An honorable discharge, discharge under honorable conditions, or a
 24 general discharge under honorable conditions~~[- within two (2) years~~
 25 ~~preceding the date of applying for the license, permit, certificate, or~~
 26 ~~other document]; or~~

27 **2. A discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

- 1 *a. A qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or*
2 *b. Status as a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of*
3 *this Act;*

4 (b) Received training, education, or experience during active, National Guard, or
5 federal reserve military service to the extent that such training, education, or
6 experience satisfies the requirements established by law and administrative
7 regulations of the respective board for the issuance of any license, permit,
8 certificate, or other document, however styled or denominated, required for
9 the practice of any business, profession, or occupation in the Commonwealth;
10 and

11 (c) Submitted his or her DD 214 form or other proof of satisfactory completion of
12 military training to the administrative body as part of the license or certificate
13 application.

14 (3) Nothing in subsection (2) of this section shall require an administrative body to
15 issue a license, permit, certificate, or other document if the administrative body
16 determines that the military training or experience does not meet the requirements
17 established by the administrative body for the issuance of a license, permit,
18 certificate, or other document to operate within a business, profession, or
19 occupation in the Commonwealth.

20 (4) Administrative bodies that receive multiple requests under this section are directed
21 to publish clear guidelines to clarify requirements. These guidelines may be
22 published electronically, in print, or by the promulgation of administrative
23 regulations.

24 (5) Military training and experience submitted under subsection (2) of this section shall
25 not be used as a substitute or in lieu of:

26 (a) A postsecondary school degree when a degree is a prerequisite for a license,
27 permit, certificate, or other document; or

1 (b) A specified examination when passage of an examination is a prerequisite for
2 a license, permit, certificate, or other document.

3 ➔Section 5. KRS 14A.1-070 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 (1) "Business" includes every trade, occupation, and profession;
- 6 (2) "Business trust" means a business trust governed as to its internal affairs by KRS
7 Chapter 386 or a statutory trust governed as to its internal affairs by KRS Chapter
8 386A;
- 9 (3) "Corporation" means a business corporation governed as to its internal affairs by
10 KRS Chapter 271B, a cooperative or association governed as to its internal affairs
11 by KRS Chapter 272, a nonprofit corporation governed as to its internal affairs by
12 KRS Chapter 273, and a rural electric or rural telephone cooperative corporation
13 governed as to its internal affairs by KRS Chapter 279;
- 14 (4) "Debtor in bankruptcy" means a person who is the subject of:
- 15 (a) An order for relief under Title 11 of the United States Code or a comparable
16 order under a successor statute of general application; or
- 17 (b) A comparable order under federal, state, or foreign law governing insolvency;
- 18 (5) "Deliver" or "delivery" means any method of delivery used in conventional
19 commercial practice, including delivery by hand, mail, commercial delivery, and
20 electronic transmission;
- 21 (6) "Electronic transmission" or "electronically transmitted" means any process of
22 communication not directly involving the physical transfer of paper that is suitable
23 for the retention, retrieval, and reproduction of information by the recipient;
- 24 (7) "Entity" means a corporation, business or statutory trust, partnership, limited
25 partnership, limited liability company, limited cooperative association, or
26 unincorporated nonprofit association, governed as to its internal affairs by the laws
27 of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

- 1 (8) "Foreign business trust" means a business or statutory trust not governed as to its
2 internal affairs by KRS Chapter 386 or 386A;
- 3 (9) "Foreign corporation" means a corporation as defined in subsection (2) of this
4 section that is not:
- 5 (a) Organized pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; or
6 (b) As to its internal affairs, governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of
7 Kentucky;
- 8 (10) "Foreign entity" means a corporation, not-for-profit corporation, cooperative,
9 limited cooperative association, association, business or statutory trust, partnership,
10 limited partnership, limited liability company, or unincorporated nonprofit
11 association not:
- 12 (a) Organized pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; or
13 (b) As to its internal affairs, governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of
14 Kentucky;
- 15 (11) "Foreign limited cooperative association" means a limited cooperative association
16 that is not:
- 17 (a) Organized pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; or
18 (b) As to its internal affairs, governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of
19 Kentucky;
- 20 (12) "Foreign limited liability partnership" means a partnership that:
- 21 (a) Is formed under laws other than the laws of this Commonwealth; and
22 (b) Has the status of a limited liability partnership under those laws;
- 23 (13) "Foreign professional service corporation" has the same meaning as in KRS
24 274.005;
- 25 (14) "Foreign rural electric cooperative" means a rural electric cooperative organized
26 otherwise than under KRS 279.010 to 279.210;
- 27 (15) "Foreign rural telephone cooperative" means a rural telephone cooperative

- 1 organized otherwise than under KRS 279.310 to 279.990 excepting 279.570;
- 2 (16) "Foreign unincorporated nonprofit association" means an unincorporated nonprofit
3 association that is not:
- 4 (a) Organized in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; or
5 (b) As to its internal affairs, governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of
6 Kentucky;
- 7 (17) "Good standing" means that all annual reports which are required to be received
8 from an entity or foreign entity have been delivered to and filed by the Secretary of
9 State, that all other lawfully required statutory documentation has been received and
10 filed, and that all fees, costs, and expenses, including penalties incurred in
11 connection therewith, have been paid;
- 12 (18) "Limited cooperative association" means a limited cooperative association governed
13 as to its internal affairs by KRS Chapter 272A;
- 14 (19) "Limited liability company" has the same meaning as in KRS 275.015;
- 15 (20) "Limited liability partnership" means a partnership that has filed a statement of
16 qualification under KRS 362.1-931 or a registration as a registered limited liability
17 partnership under KRS 362.555 and does not have a similar statement or
18 registration in effect in any other jurisdiction;
- 19 (21) "Name of record with the Secretary of State" means any real, fictitious, reserved,
20 registered, or assumed name of an entity or foreign entity;
- 21 (22) "Nonprofit corporation," other than in the term "foreign nonprofit corporation,"
22 means a nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to and governed as to its
23 internal affairs by KRS Chapter 273 or predecessor law;
- 24 (23) "Organic act" means the law of a state or other jurisdiction governing the
25 organization and internal affairs of an entity or foreign entity;
- 26 (24) "Organized" means organized, incorporated, or formed;
- 27 (25) "Organizational filing" means a filing made with the Secretary of State as a

1 precondition to the formation, organization, or incorporation of an entity, including
2 articles of incorporation, articles of organization, articles of association, certificates
3 of trust, and certificates of limited partnership. A statement of qualification filed
4 pursuant to KRS 362.1-931 or a registration as a limited liability partnership filed
5 pursuant to KRS 362.555 is not an organizational filing;

6 (26) "Partnership" means an association of two (2) or more persons to carry on as co-
7 owners a business for profit formed under KRS 362.1-202, predecessor law, or
8 comparable law of another jurisdiction;

9 (27) "Partnership agreement" means the agreement, whether written, oral, or implied,
10 among the partners concerning the partnership, including amendments to the
11 partnership agreement;

12 (28) "Person" means an individual, an entity, a foreign entity, or any other legal or
13 commercial entity;

14 (29) "Principal office" means the address required by this chapter or the organic act to be
15 of record with the Secretary of State as the principal office, the principal place of
16 business address, the designated office of a limited partnership, or the chief
17 executive office of a limited liability partnership;

18 (30) "Professional service corporation" has the same meaning as in KRS 274.005;

19 (31) "Professional services" means the personal services rendered by physicians,
20 osteopaths, optometrists, podiatrists, chiropractors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists,
21 psychologists, occupational therapists, veterinarians, engineers, architects,
22 landscape architects, certified public accountants, public accountants, physical
23 therapists, and attorneys;

24 (32) "Property" means all property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, or
25 any interest therein;

26 (33) "Qualified person" has the same meaning as in KRS 274.005;

27 (34) "Registered agent" means a registered agent appointed in accordance with KRS

- 1 14A.4-010 or predecessor law, and is synonymous with agent for service of process;
- 2 (35) "Registered office" means the registered office identified in accordance with and
3 satisfying the requirements of KRS 14A.4-010(1)(b). The registered office address
4 must be a street address;
- 5 (36) "Regulatory board" means the agency that is charged by law with the licensing and
6 regulation of the practice of the profession which the entity is organized to provide;
- 7 (37) "Rural electric cooperative" means a rural electric cooperative governed as to its
8 internal affairs by KRS 279.010 to 279.210;
- 9 (38) "Rural telephone cooperative" means a rural telephone cooperative governed as to
10 its internal affairs by KRS 279.310 to 279.990 excepting KRS 279.570;
- 11 (39) "Series entity" means an entity or a foreign entity authorized and enabled by its
12 organic act and organizational filing to create series having separate rights, powers,
13 or duties with respect to specific property or obligations of the series entity, or the
14 profits and losses associated with specific property or obligations;
- 15 (40) "Sign" or "signature" includes any manual, facsimile, conformed, or electronic
16 signature;
- 17 (41) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the
18 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
19 jurisdiction of the United States;
- 20 (42) "Statutory trust" means a trust governed as to its internal affairs by KRS Chapter
21 386A;
- 22 (43) "Unincorporated nonprofit association" means an unincorporated nonprofit
23 association governed as to its internal affairs by KRS Chapter 273A;
- 24 (44) "Veteran" means:
- 25 (a) Any~~any~~ person who served in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, or
26 National Guard and was separated or released therefrom with:
- 27 1. An~~an~~ honorable discharge, discharge under honorable conditions, or

1 general discharge under honorable conditions; or

2 **2. A discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

3 **a. Has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or**

4 **b. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of this**
 5 **Act; or**

6 **(b) Any**~~any~~ person who currently serves in the United States Armed Forces,
 7 Reserves, or National Guard; and

8 (45) "Veteran-owned business" means a business:

- 9 (a) That is at least fifty-one percent (51%) unconditionally owned by one (1) or
 10 more veterans;
- 11 (b) In the case of a publicly owned business, in which at least fifty-one percent
 12 (51%) of the stock is unconditionally owned by one (1) or more veterans; or
- 13 (c) That is a nonprofit business which is at least fifty-one percent (51%)
 14 unconditionally managed by one (1) or more veterans.

15 ➔Section 6. KRS 16.040 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The department shall consist of the commissioner and the number of officers,
 17 individuals employed as a Trooper R Class, CVE R Class, and civilians, and shall
 18 be organized in the manner as the commissioner from time to time determines.

19 (2) All persons appointed as officers shall at the time of their appointment:

- 20 (a) Be not less than twenty-one (21) years of age;
- 21 (b) Be of good moral character, and in good health;
- 22 (c) Be citizens of the United States and residents of the Commonwealth; and
- 23 (d) Possess;
- 24 1. A minimum of sixty (60) hours of credit, or an associate degree, from an
 25 accredited college or university;
- 26 2. A high school diploma with at least two (2) years' experience in the
 27 military or in law enforcement; or

1 3. A high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED)
 2 diploma with additional experience established by the commissioner by
 3 administrative regulation promulgated pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A.
 4 However, any person appointed under this subparagraph who has not
 5 completed the requirements of subparagraph 1. of this paragraph prior to
 6 the end of probation as described in KRS 16.140(11) shall be
 7 discharged.

8 (3) The commissioner shall prescribe minimum physical requirements for appointment
 9 as an officer of the department and for individuals employed as a Trooper R Class
 10 or CVE R Class, and shall conduct such tests and require such physical
 11 examinations as deemed necessary to determine the fitness and qualification of each
 12 applicant. All other qualifications being equal, preference shall be given to veterans
 13 of the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war, who:

14 (a) Were honorably discharged; or

15 (b) *Have a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:*

16 1. *Have a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or*

17 2. *Are discharged LGBTQ veterans as defined in Section 1 of this Act.*

18 (4) The commissioner shall direct an investigation to be conducted in order to
 19 determine an applicant's suitability for employment as an officer. The contents of
 20 the investigation shall be subject to the Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884
 21 and KRS 61.991, except that the identity of any witness or informant involving
 22 information relative to this investigation shall remain confidential. The identity of
 23 any witness or informant shall be subject to the subpoena power of a court of
 24 competent jurisdiction.

25 ➔Section 7. KRS 40.650 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) As used in this section:

27 (a) "Department" means the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and

1 (b) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active Armed Forces of the
2 United States, including the Coast Guard of the United States, and was
3 released, separated, discharged, or retired therefrom;

4 1. Under honorable or general conditions; or

5 2. *Under conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:*

6 a. *Has a qualifying condition; or*

7 b. *Is a discharged LGBTO veteran.*

8 (2) A veterans' personal loan program trust fund is established to oversee and
9 administer funds under the Veterans' Personal Loan Program.

10 (3) (a) To be eligible for a loan under the Veterans' Personal Loan Program, an
11 applicant shall be a resident of, and living in, the Commonwealth on the date
12 of the application.

13 (b) 1. As used in this paragraph, "qualified" means having met loan conditions
14 established by an administrative regulation promulgated by the
15 department. However, the term of a loan shall not exceed ten (10) years.

16 2. The department shall cause the veterans' personal loan program trust
17 fund to lend a qualified veteran or deceased veteran's unremarried
18 spouse not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or a lesser amount
19 established by an administrative regulation promulgated by the
20 department, for:

21 a. The purchase of a home, business, or business property;

22 b. The education of the loan applicant or the loan applicant's spouse;

23 c. The payment of family medical or funeral expenses; or

24 d. The consolidation of debt.

25 3. The department shall cause the veterans' personal loan trust fund to lend
26 a qualified child of a veteran or parent or guardian of that child not more
27 than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or a lesser amount established by an

1 administrative regulation promulgated by the department, for the
2 education of that child, who is under the age of twenty-seven (27), at a
3 university, junior college, vocational training institute, or nonpublic
4 school admitting children in preschool through grade twelve (12).

5 (c) No person shall receive a loan under this section in an amount that, when
6 added to the balance of the person's existing loan or loans under this section,
7 would result in a total indebtedness to the veterans' personal loan program
8 trust fund of more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or a lesser amount
9 established by an administrative regulation promulgated by the department.

10 (4) (a) The veterans' personal loan program trust fund shall:

- 11 1. Execute necessary instruments; and
- 12 2. Collect principal and interest.

13 (b) The veterans' personal loan program trust fund may:

- 14 1. Compromise indebtedness;
- 15 2. Sue and be sued;
- 16 3. Post bonds;
- 17 4. Write off indebtedness that it considers uncollectible;
- 18 5. Exercise the rights of an owner and mortgagee if a loan provided under
19 this section is secured by a real estate mortgage;
- 20 6. Charge to a loan applicant loan expenses incurred under this section; and
- 21 7. a. Receive state appropriations, gifts, grants, federal funds, and any
22 other funds both public and private.
23 b. Funds received, which are not necessary for the operation of the
24 veterans' personal loan program trust fund, shall remain with the
25 department to finance other department operations.

26 (5) The department shall promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out
27 the provisions of this section.

1 ➔Section 8. KRS 42.0146 is amended to read as follows:

2 (1) For purposes of this section:

3 (a) "Disabled veteran" means an individual, domiciled in Kentucky, who has
4 served on active duty in the Armed Forces, has been separated therefrom;

5 **1. Under~~under~~ honorable or general conditions; or~~,~~**

6 **2. Under conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

7 **a. Has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or**

8 **b. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of this**
9 **Act; and**

10 has established the present existence of a service-connected disability or is
11 receiving compensation, disability retirements benefits, or pension because of
12 a public statute administered by the United States Department of Veterans
13 Affairs or Department of Defense, or was terminated from active duty by the
14 Department of Defense because of a disability; and

15 (b) "Disabled veteran-owned business" means a business:

- 16 1. Where a disabled veteran has at least fifty-one percent (51%) ownership;
- 17 2. That is independently owned and operated;
- 18 3. That does not exceed the applicable size standards for its industry, as
19 determined by the United States Small Business Administration;
- 20 4. That has been owned and operated by the disabled veteran for at least a
21 full calendar or fiscal year; and
- 22 5. For which the disabled veteran has filed a business tax return consisting
23 of a full calendar or fiscal year.

24 (2) The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance shall
25 oversee a program that provides certification of a disabled veteran-owned business
26 in order to encourage growth among businesses owned by disabled veterans within
27 the state and assist those businesses in competing for work in other states that

1 require certification by a statewide body. This certification does not provide a
 2 preference in state procurement, nor does it create a point system or set aside for
 3 disabled veteran-owned businesses.

4 (3) In order to apply for certification, a disabled veteran shall provide proof of his or
 5 her disability. Proof shall be in the form of Department of Defense Form DD 214,
 6 United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability letter, or other United
 7 States Department of Veterans Affairs documentation establishing a service-
 8 connected disability.

9 (4) The Finance and Administration Cabinet shall promulgate any administrative
 10 regulations necessary to create and manage the disabled veteran-owned business
 11 certification program, which may include but is not limited to additional
 12 certification requirements, the application process, onsite visitation by the Office of
 13 Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance, and recertification.

14 ➔Section 9. KRS 148.0211 is amended to read as follows:

15 (1) Any veteran who:~~[-]~~

16 (a) Has been a prisoner of war;~~[-]~~

17 (b) 1. Was~~was~~ honorably discharged from the military forces; ~~or~~[-]

18 2. Was discharged under conditions other than bad conduct or
 19 dishonorable, and:

20 a. Has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or

21 b. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of this
 22 Act; and

23 (c) Is a resident of this state;

24 is exempt from camping fees in parks or campgrounds owned or operated by the
 25 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

26 (2) To claim the exemption provided for by subsection (1) of this section, a veteran
 27 shall forward:

- 1 (a) A copy of his separation form from military service; or
2 (b) A letter from one (1) of the military forces or the United States Department of
3 Veterans Affairs; and
4 (c) Written proof of residence to the Department of Parks. The department shall
5 mail a card to the veteran certifying that he is exempt from the fees specified
6 in subsection (1) of this section.

7 ➔Section 10. KRS 158.105 is amended to read as follows:

8 Each school district in this state shall admit to its twelve (12) grade school service,
9 without tuition, any veteran of the Armed Forces whose attendance was interrupted,
10 before completing the approved twelve (12) grade school course, because of induction or
11 enlistment in the Armed Forces. The veteran shall apply for reenrollment in the public
12 school system of the district of his residence not later than four (4) years after his or her
13 honorable discharge from the Armed Forces, separation from service with a qualifying
14 condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act with other than a bad conduct or
15 dishonorable discharge, or separation from service as a discharged LGBTQ veteran as
16 defined in Section 1 of this Act with other than a bad conduct or dishonorable
17 discharge. However, this is not intended to apply to enrollment by veterans in special
18 courses for which tuition is paid under the provisions of federal laws, or otherwise.

19 ➔Section 11. KRS 158.140 is amended to read as follows:

- 20 (1) When a pupil in any public elementary school or any approved private or parochial
21 school completes the prescribed elementary program of studies, he or she is entitled
22 to a certificate of completion signed by the teacher or teachers under whom the
23 program was completed. The certificate shall entitle the pupil to admission into any
24 public high school. Any promotions or credits earned in attendance in any approved
25 public school are valid in any other public school to which a pupil may go, but the
26 superintendent or principal of a school, as the case may be, may assign the pupil to
27 the class or grade to which the pupil is best suited. In case a pupil transfers from the

- 1 school of one (1) district to the school of another district, an assignment to a lower
2 grade or course shall not be made until the pupil has demonstrated that he or she is
3 not suited for the work in the grade or course to which he or she has been promoted.
- 4 (2) Upon successful completion of all state and local board requirements, the student
5 shall receive:
- 6 (a) A diploma indicating graduation from high school; or
7 (b) An alternative high school diploma if the student has a disability and has
8 completed a modified curriculum and an individualized course of study
9 pursuant to requirements established by the Kentucky Board of Education in
10 accordance with KRS 156.160.
- 11 (3) (a) The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, located at
12 Western Kentucky University, and the Craft Academy for Excellence in
13 Science and Mathematics, located at Morehead State University, may award a
14 diploma to any student who completes his or her high school program at the
15 respective academy. If the academy issues a diploma, the board of regents of
16 the host university shall provide to the commissioner of education a letter of
17 assurance that the program of study completed by its students, in combination
18 with previously earned secondary credits, meets the minimum high school
19 graduation requirements established by the Kentucky Board of Education
20 under KRS 156.160(1)(d).
- 21 (b) A local school district may award a joint diploma with the Gatton Academy of
22 Mathematics and Science in Kentucky or the Craft Academy for Excellence in
23 Science and Mathematics to any student who was enrolled in a district high
24 school and completed his or her high school program at the respective
25 academy.
- 26 (c) The respective academy and the home school district shall ensure that student
27 transcripts from each institution accurately reflect the dual credit coursework.

- 1 (4) A local school board may award a diploma indicating graduation from high school
2 to any student posthumously with the high school class the student was expected to
3 graduate.
- 4 (5) (a) A local board of education shall award an authentic high school diploma to an
5 honorably discharged veteran, a veteran with a qualifying condition as
6 defined in Section 1 of this Act with other than a bad conduct or
7 dishonorable discharge, or a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in
8 Section 1 of this Act with other than a bad conduct or dishonorable
9 discharge, who did not complete high school prior to being inducted into the
10 United States Armed Forces during:
- 11 1. World War II, as defined in KRS 40.010;
 - 12 2. The Korean conflict, as defined in KRS 40.010; or
 - 13 3. The Vietnam War. As used in this paragraph, "Vietnam War" means the
14 period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975. However,
15 for a member of the United States Armed Forces serving in Vietnam
16 prior to August 5, 1964, the period shall begin February 28, 1961.
- 17 (b) Upon recommendation of the commissioner, the Kentucky Board of
18 Education in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs
19 shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the guidelines for
20 awarding the authentic diplomas referred to in paragraph (a) of this
21 subsection.
- 22 (6) Any high school graduation requirements adopted by a local board shall not include
23 achieving a minimum score on a statewide assessment administered under KRS
24 158.6453.
- 25 (7) The Department of Education shall establish the requirements for a vocational
26 certificate of completion. A student who has returned to school after dropping out
27 shall receive counseling concerning the vocational program. A student who has

1 completed the requirements established for a vocational program shall receive a
2 vocational certificate of completion specifying the areas of competence.

3 ➔Section 12. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

- 5 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
6 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in
7 Kentucky schools;
- 8 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
9 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
10 program;
- 11 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
12 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by a
13 verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
14 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
- 15 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
16 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
- 17 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
18 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;
- 19 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as
20 described in subsections (2) to (9) of this section;
- 21 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional
22 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
23 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
24 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
25 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
26 Kentucky;
- 27 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any

1 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to
2 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and

3 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
4 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative
5 certification options described in this section.

6 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual
7 who has exceptional work experience and has been offered employment in a local
8 school district shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by
9 the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the individual
10 and the employing school district under the following conditions:

11 (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;

12 (b) The candidate has documented exceptional work experience in the area in
13 which certification is being sought; and

14 (c) The candidate possesses:

15 1. A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;

16 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
17 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
18 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)
19 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
20 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary
21 institution; and

22 3. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content
23 assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the
24 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

25 The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
26 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall
27 receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal

1 requirements the same as other teachers with a professional certificate.

2 (3) Option 2: Certification through a local school district training program. A local
3 school district or group of school districts may seek approval for a training program.
4 The state-approved local school district training program is an alternative to the
5 college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher certification for
6 a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered for all teaching
7 certificates approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, including
8 interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific certificates for
9 teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state-approved local school
10 district alternative training program, the candidate shall possess:

11 (a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;

12 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
13 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average
14 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit
15 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a
16 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;

17 (c) A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
18 certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education
19 Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an academic content
20 assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the
21 academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content
22 area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board; and

23 (d) An offer of employment in a school district which has a training program
24 approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.

25 Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection, the
26 candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the Education
27 Professional Standards Board. The candidate shall participate in the teacher

1 internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the
2 internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall
3 be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
4 professional certificate.

- 5 (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A
6 candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a one (1) year
7 provisional certificate for teaching at any level:
- 8 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which
9 certification is sought;
 - 10 (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its
11 equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a
12 regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and
 - 13 (c) An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the
14 Education Professional Standards Board.

15 The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
16 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall
17 receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal
18 requirements the same as other teachers with professional certificates.

- 19 (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas
20 such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, computer science, and other
21 specialty areas may be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by a
22 local board of education under KRS 161.046.

- 23 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education
24 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)
25 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical
26 education levels to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably discharged **or**
27 **who was discharged with other than a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge,**

1 *provided that veterans with discharges that are not honorable have a qualifying*
2 *condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act or are discharged LGBTQ veterans*
3 *as defined in Section 1 of this Act,* from active duty as evidenced by Defense
4 Department Form 214 (DD 214) or National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member
5 of the Armed Services currently serving with six (6) or more years of honorable
6 service, including Reserves, National Guard, or active duty. The candidate shall
7 possess:

- 8 (a) A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;
- 9 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
10 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average
11 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit
12 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a
13 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
- 14 (c) An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment in
15 the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated
16 by the Education Professional Standards Board.

17 Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive
18 a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by the Education Professional
19 Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school
20 district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship
21 program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship
22 program, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

- 23 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education
24 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that
25 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently
26 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative
27 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate and shall participate

1 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS
2 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student
3 has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The one (1) year
4 provisional certificate may be renewed two (2) additional years, and shall be
5 contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program
6 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional
7 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the
8 program, the internship program requirements, and all academic content
9 assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the
10 Education Professional Standards Board.

11 (8) Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in
12 elementary, middle, or secondary programs. This option shall not be limited to
13 teaching in shortage areas. An individual certified under provisions of this
14 subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate, renewable for a
15 maximum of two (2) additional years with approval of the Education Professional
16 Standards Board.

17 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 18 1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which
19 certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area
20 in which certification is sought;
- 21 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
22 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
23 average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours
24 of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework
25 from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;
- 26 3. A passing score on the GRE or equivalent as designated by the
27 Education Professional Standards Board. A candidate who has a

1 terminal degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this
2 subparagraph; and

3 4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
4 certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
5 Standards Board.

6 (b) Prior to receiving the one (1) year provisional certificate or during the first
7 year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:

8 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the
9 equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6)
10 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the
11 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards
12 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
13 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
14 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
15 methods of classroom management.

16 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully
17 complete the equivalent of a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute,
18 based on six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the
19 content of the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional
20 Standards Board and shall include research-based teaching strategies,
21 research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual
22 differences, including teaching exceptional children, and methods of
23 classroom management.

24 (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
25 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate
26 shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate
27 renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional

1 certificate.

2 (9) Option 8: Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in elementary,
3 middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with the
4 participation criteria of the Teach for America program. An individual certified
5 under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate.

6 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 7 1. An offer of employment from a local school district;
- 8 2. A bachelor's degree;
- 9 3. A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing
10 professional development required by Teach for America, including
11 instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and
12 assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom
13 management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching
14 methodologies; and
- 15 4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
16 certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
17 Standards Board.

18 (b) The provisional certificate granted under paragraph (a) of this subsection may
19 be renewed two (2) times with a recommendation of the superintendent and
20 approval of the Education Professional Standards Board.

21 (c) A Teach for America participant who is approved for a second renewal of his
22 or her provisional certificate under paragraph (b) of this subsection may
23 participate in the teacher internship program under KRS 161.030.

24 (d) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate upon
25 the participant's successful completion of the internship program and
26 assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education
27 Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030.

1 (e) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a
2 teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years from the date
3 that the teacher successfully completed the internship program to complete a
4 master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the
5 Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.

6 (10) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to (9) of this section shall be
7 placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the degree
8 held by the teacher.

9 (11) Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who possesses the
10 following qualifications may receive certification for teaching programs for
11 exceptional students:

12 (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students;

13 (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area
14 for which certification is sought; and

15 (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship program requirement required
16 under KRS 161.030.

17 ➔Section 13. KRS 164.512 is amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The child of a veteran, regardless of age, who has acquired a disability as a direct
19 result of the veteran's service shall be eligible to receive a waiver of tuition upon
20 admission to any state-supported university, college, or vocational training institute.

21 (2) To be entitled to benefits under this section, the child claiming benefits must have
22 acquired a disability determined by the United States Department of Veterans
23 Affairs as compensable.

24 (3) The parent-child relationship must be shown by birth certificate, marriage
25 certificate, or other documentary evidence.

26 (4) To entitle a child to benefit under this section, the member of the National Guard or
27 Reserve Component veteran living or deceased must **be a resident or, if deceased,**

1 **have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and must** have served on
 2 state active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or the veteran
 3 must have served on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, and
 4 the discharge must have been:

5 **(a)** Under honorable conditions; **or**

6 **(b)** **Under conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

7 **1. The veteran has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this**
 8 **Act; or**

9 **2. The veteran is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of**
 10 **this Act.** ~~[The veteran must be a resident or, if deceased, must have been~~
 11 ~~a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.]~~

12 ➔Section 14. KRS 164.515 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The spouse, regardless of age, and any child, stepchild, or orphan, under the age of
 14 twenty-six (26), of a permanently and totally disabled member of the Kentucky
 15 National Guard or Reserve Component injured while on state active duty, active
 16 duty for training, or inactive duty training, or a permanently and totally disabled war
 17 veteran, or a one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disabled veteran
 18 regardless of wartime service, or prisoner of war or member of the Armed Services
 19 declared missing in action shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition
 20 fees upon his admission to any state-supported institution of higher education or to
 21 any state-supported vocational training school for a period not in excess of forty-
 22 five (45) months in order to obtain a diploma, nor in excess of the lesser number of
 23 months required for a certificate of completion.

24 (2) To be entitled to benefits under this section the parent or stepparent of the child
 25 claiming benefits if living must be rated permanently and totally disabled for
 26 pension purposes or one hundred percent (100%) disabled for compensation
 27 purposes by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of

1 Defense. If the veteran is deceased, the claim to benefits is to be based on the rating
 2 held by the veteran at the time of death or if a prisoner of war or missing in action,
 3 must have been declared as such by the Department of Defense. Members of the
 4 Kentucky National Guard must be rated permanently and totally disabled as
 5 provided in KRS Chapter 342. The parent's, stepparent's, or spouse's service and
 6 rating must be evidenced by certification from the records of the Kentucky
 7 Department of Military Affairs, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or
 8 the Department of Defense of the United States.

9 (3) The parent-child relationship must be shown by birth certificate, legal adoption
 10 papers, marriage certificate, or other documentary evidence. A stepchild must be a
 11 member of the veteran's household. The spousal relationship must be shown by a
 12 marriage certificate or other documentary evidence.

13 (4) To entitle a spouse, child, stepchild, or orphan to benefit under this section the
 14 disabled member of the National Guard or Reserve Component veteran living or
 15 deceased must **be a resident or, if deceased, have been a resident of the**
 16 **Commonwealth of Kentucky, and must** have served on state active duty, active
 17 duty for training, or inactive duty training or active duty with the Armed Forces of
 18 the United States, and his discharge must have been:

19 **(a) Under honorable conditions; or**

20 **(b) Under conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:**

21 **1. The veteran has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this**
 22 **Act; or**

23 **2. The veteran is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of**
 24 **this Act.** ~~He must be a resident or, if deceased, have been a resident of~~
 25 ~~the Commonwealth of Kentucky.]~~

26 (5) No provision of this section shall serve to deny these benefits to an eligible spouse,
 27 child, stepchild, or orphan, who enlists, or who fulfills a military obligation, in the

1 Armed Forces of the United States and is discharged under honorable conditions;
 2 the period of time spent in the military service to be compensated by like time,
 3 beyond the age of twenty-six (26) years if required, but not in excess of the period
 4 of enrollment as set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

5 (6) The marriage of an eligible child, stepchild, or orphan, shall not serve to deny full
 6 entitlement to the benefits provided in this section.

7 ➔Section 15. KRS 186.041 (Effective June 29, 2021) is amended to read as
 8 follows:

9 (1) Each initial and renewal application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraph
 10 (a) of this section and each initial application by a person who meets the criteria of
 11 paragraph (b), (c), ~~or~~ (d), or (e) of this section for a special military license plate
 12 shall be accompanied by proof as set forth in subsection (10) of this section that the
 13 person is associated with the United States Army, United States Navy, United States
 14 Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States
 15 Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kentucky National Guard, Merchant Marines with service
 16 between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945, or Civil Air Patrol in one (1) of
 17 the following ways:

18 (a) A member of the Armed Forces of the United States;

19 (b) A retired member;

20 (c) A member of the National Guard or Reserve component who has completed
 21 his or her term of service, or has retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years
 22 of service; ~~or~~

23 (d) A veteran who:

24 1. Received~~received~~ a discharge under:

25 a. Honorable~~honorable~~ conditions~~, or the veteran's surviving~~
 26 ~~spouse,]; or~~

27 b. Conditions other than bad conduct or dishonorable, and:

1 *i. Has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this*
 2 *Act; or*

3 *ii. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of*
 4 *this Act;* and[-]

5 2. a.[1.]Performed one hundred eighty (180) days of active-duty service;

6 b.[2.]Received an early release due to injuries or other medical
 7 condition, or at the convenience of the service;

8 c.[3.]Received a hardship discharge;

9 d.[4.]Was separated or retired due to a disability; or

10 e.[5.]Was determined to have a service-connected disability incurred
 11 during the enlistment; or

12 (e) *The surviving spouse of an individual who meets the criteria of paragraph*
 13 *(a), (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection.*

14 (2) The member, retired member, veteran, reservist, or his or her spouse who is eligible
 15 under subsection (9) of this section may purchase an unlimited number of special
 16 military-related license plates described in subsection (1) of this section, annually
 17 for vehicles they own or lease. A disabled veterans license plate shall expire on July
 18 31.

19 (3) A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross
 20 shall be eligible for a Service Cross license plate upon submission of an application
 21 to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs. The recipient shall be required to
 22 include with the initial application for a Service Cross license plate a copy of the
 23 general order that authorized the award and the recipient's Department of Defense
 24 form number 214. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall verify the
 25 documentation submitted with the application for a Service Cross license plate, and
 26 if the individual applying for the plate is confirmed to be a recipient of the
 27 Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, the Department of

1 Veterans' Affairs shall submit the applicant's name to the Transportation Cabinet's
2 Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing not later than September 1 preceding the year
3 that the Service Cross license plate is to be initially issued or renewed. When the
4 Service Cross license plate is ready, the plate shall be sent to the county clerk in the
5 county of the applicant's residence. The Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor
6 Vehicle Licensing shall inform each applicant in writing that the Service Cross
7 license plate is ready and may be picked up at the county clerk's office. The
8 Transportation Cabinet shall prescribe the type of application form required by this
9 subsection and shall supply the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the application
10 form required by this subsection.

11 (4) A person who is a former prisoner of the enemy during World War I, World War II,
12 the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or the spouse of a deceased former prisoner
13 of war, shall be eligible for a former prisoner of war license plate by submitting
14 written proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other
15 appropriate federal agency stating the period of time the person or person's spouse
16 was a prisoner of war. If a former prisoner of war dies with a vehicle licensed as
17 authorized under this section, the person's surviving spouse may retain the license
18 plate for use on the same vehicle or on another vehicle that complies with KRS
19 186.164(7).

20 (5) A person who is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors
21 Association as being a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be eligible for a
22 Pearl Harbor license plate and shall be required to attach to the special military-
23 related license plate application written evidence from the Kentucky chapter of the
24 Pearl Harbor Survivors Association that the person:

25 (a) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941;

26 (b) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45
27 a.m., Hawaii time, at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a

- 1 distance not to exceed three (3) miles;
- 2 (c) Was discharged honorably from the United States Armed Forces; and
- 3 (d) Is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors
4 Association.
- 5 (6) A person who is eligible to receive a Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold
6 Star Spouses license plate under KRS 186.164(15)(a) may receive up to two (2)
7 Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates free of
8 charge and may purchase additional license plates by paying the same fee as for
9 special military-related plates issued under KRS 186.162(2)(d) annually for vehicles
10 he or she owns or leases.
- 11 (7) The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient, or a Kentucky National Guard
12 member or a retired member, who possessed a vehicle licensed with the Purple
13 Heart recipient special license plate or the Kentucky National Guard special license
14 plate, may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or another vehicle that
15 complies with KRS 186.164(7). The surviving spouse may renew the license plate
16 indefinitely, provided the appropriate registration fee is paid annually.
- 17 (8) A person who is attending or who is a graduate of the United States Air Force
18 Academy, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy,
19 the United States Coast Guard Academy, or the United States Merchant Marine
20 Academy shall be eligible for a special military service academy license plate. A
21 special military service academy license plate under this subsection shall use the
22 same plate template as the standard special military license plate under subsection
23 (1) of this section, with stickers to identify the various service academies. The
24 Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to
25 KRS Chapter 13A to establish the proof required to demonstrate current attendance
26 at or graduation from a service academy. An eligible applicant may receive up to
27 two (2) special military service academy license plates.

1 (9) (a) The legally married spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United
2 States who meets the criteria for a special military license plate under
3 subsection (1) of this section shall be eligible for a special military license
4 plate. A special military license plate under this subsection shall use the same
5 template as the standard special military license plate under subsection (1) of
6 this section, with a sticker identifying the plate as that of a military spouse.

7 (b) An applicant who is eligible for a special military license plate under this
8 subsection shall present as proof of eligibility an original or copy of his or her
9 marriage certificate establishing marriage to the member of the Armed Forces
10 of the United States and an original or copy of one (1) of the following:

- 11 1. His or her unexpired DD-1173 form; or
- 12 2. Any identification document outlined in subsection (10) of this section
13 issued to his or her spouse.

14 (10) Prior to receiving a special military-related plate requested under subsection (1) of
15 this section, the applicant shall present as proof of eligibility, an original or copy of
16 his or her:

- 17 (a) Unexpired Veteran Identification Card or Veteran Health Identification Card
18 issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- 19 (b) DD-2, DD-214, DD-256, DD-257, or NGB-22 form; or
- 20 (c) Unexpired Geneva Conventions Identification Card issued by the United
21 States Department of Defense.

22 ➔Section 16. KRS 186.416 (Effective June 29, 2021) is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 (1) If a resident of the Commonwealth currently serving in the United States military is
25 stationed or assigned to a base or other location outside the boundaries of the
26 Commonwealth, the resident, or the resident's spouse or dependents, may renew a
27 Class D operator's license issued under this section by mail. If the resident, or his or

1 her spouse or dependents, was issued an "under 21" operator's license, upon the date
2 of the license holder's twenty-first birthday, the "under 21" operator's license may be
3 renewed for an operator's license that no longer contains the outdated reference to
4 being "under 21."

5 (2) A resident of the Commonwealth renewing an operator's license by mail under
6 subsection (1) of this section may have a personal designee apply to the cabinet on
7 behalf of the resident to renew the resident's operator's license. An operator's license
8 being renewed by mail under subsection (1) of this section shall be issued a license
9 bearing the applicant's historical photo if there is a photo on file. If there is no photo
10 on file, the license shall be issued without a photograph and shall show in the space
11 provided for the photograph the legend "valid without photo and signature."

12 (3) (a) 1. If a resident of the Commonwealth has been serving in the United States
13 military stationed or assigned to a base or other location outside the
14 boundaries of the Commonwealth and has allowed his or her operator's
15 license to expire, he or she shall, within ninety (90) days of returning to
16 the Commonwealth, be permitted to renew his or her license without
17 having to take a written test or road test.

18 2. The spouse or dependent of a person identified in subparagraph 1. of this
19 paragraph shall be afforded the same consideration identified in that
20 subparagraph regarding the renewal of an expired operator's license.

21 (b) A person who meets the criteria in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not be
22 convicted or cited for driving on an expired license prior to license renewal
23 during the ninety (90) days after the person's return to the Commonwealth if
24 the person can provide proof of his or her out-of-state service and dates of
25 assignment.

26 (c) A person who meets the criteria in paragraph (a) of this subsection and who
27 does not renew his or her license within ninety (90) days of returning to the

1 Commonwealth shall be required to comply with the provisions of this chapter
 2 governing renewal of a license that has expired.

3 (d) If a resident of the Commonwealth has been issued an "under 21" or "under 21
 4 CDL" operator's license and the person is unable to renew the license on the
 5 date of his or her twenty-first birthday, the "under 21" or "under 21 CDL"
 6 operator's license shall be valid for ninety (90) days beyond the date of the
 7 person's twenty-first birthday.

8 (4) (a) Any person who served in the active Armed Forces of the United States,
 9 including the Coast Guard, and any member of the National Guard or Reserve
 10 Component who completed the member's term of service and was released,
 11 separated, discharged, or retired therefrom ~~with~~~~under either~~:

12 1. An~~an~~ honorable discharge;~~or~~

13 2. A~~a~~ general under honorable conditions discharge; or

14 3. A discharge other than a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge and:

15 a Has a qualifying condition as defined in Section 1 of this Act; or

16 b. Is a discharged LGBTQ veteran as defined in Section 1 of this

17 Act;

18 may, at the time of initial application or application for renewal or duplicate,
 19 request that an operator's license or a personal identification card issued under
 20 this chapter bear the word "veteran" on the face or the back of the license or
 21 personal identification card.

22 (b) The designation shall be in a style and format considered appropriate by the
 23 Transportation Cabinet. Prior to obtaining a designation requested under this
 24 subsection, the applicant shall present to the cabinet as proof of eligibility, an
 25 original or copy of his or her:

26 1. Unexpired Veteran Identification Card or Veteran Health Identification
 27 Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

- 1 2. DD-2, DD-214, DD-256, DD-257, or NGB-22 form; or
- 2 3. Unexpired Geneva Conventions Identification Card issued by the United
- 3 States Department of Defense.

4 The cabinet shall not be liable for fraudulent or misread forms presented.