

[Second Reprint]

# ASSEMBLY, No. 791

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

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**SYNOPSIS**

Requires institution of higher education to award appropriate credit for student's military service.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on November 18, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/17/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning veterans <sup>2</sup>and students in the military<sup>2</sup> at  
2 <sup>2</sup>[public]<sup>2</sup> institutions of higher education and supplementing  
3 chapter <sup>2</sup>[62] 3B<sup>2</sup> of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 <sup>1</sup>[1. a. As used in this section, “veteran” means an individual  
9 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States,  
10 a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard, and who was  
11 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances  
12 from active service.

13 b. A public institution of higher education shall adopt a policy  
14 to award academic credit to veterans. The policy shall grant a  
15 veteran who is accepted to pursue a course of study at the institution  
16 a minimum of six credits upon the veteran’s enrollment.]<sup>1</sup>

17  
18 <sup>1</sup>1. a. Each public and independent institution of higher  
19 education, after taking into account and giving due consideration to  
20 the credit recommendation of the American Council on Education,  
21 shall accept and apply towards an undergraduate degree program  
22 appropriate credit for a student’s military experience, following an  
23 evaluation and determination by the institution that the credits are  
24 in alignment with appropriate courses and correspond to the degree  
25 being pursued at the institution. The institution may award a  
26 maximum of 30 credits for military experience towards an  
27 undergraduate degree to a student enrolled in the institution.

28 Each public and independent institution of higher education,  
29 after taking into account and giving due consideration to the credit  
30 recommendation of the American Council on Education, shall  
31 accept and apply towards a graduate degree program appropriate  
32 credit for a student’s military experience, following an evaluation  
33 and determination by the institution that the credits are in alignment  
34 with appropriate courses and correspond to the degree being  
35 pursued at the institution. The institution may award a maximum of  
36 12 credits for military experience towards a graduate degree to a  
37 student enrolled in the institution.

38 The credit recommendation of the American Council on  
39 Education <sup>2</sup>[shall represent] represents<sup>2</sup> college-level equivalencies  
40 based on a review of workforce training, military training or  
41 occupations, and other sources of learning outside the college  
42 classroom.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted September 17, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SHI committee amendments adopted November 18, 2019.

- 1     b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any  
2     public or independent institution of higher education to admit a  
3     student or to waive its admission standards and application  
4     procedures.
- 5     c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a public  
6     or independent institution from accepting and applying towards a  
7     degree program more than 30 <sup>2</sup>undergraduate degree credits, or 12  
8     graduate degree<sup>2</sup> credits <sup>2,2</sup> for a student's military experience  
9     should the institution choose to take such action.<sup>1</sup>  
10
- 11     2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
12     the first full academic year following the date of enactment.