

HB 1297 -- Professional Licensure Requirements for Military Personnel

Sponsor: Davis

This bill changes the laws regarding the professional licensure and certification requirements of current and former military personnel. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires, by January 1, 2013, the Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to adopt a policy requiring every university, college, and vocational and technical school in this state to award credits to a student who is a veteran for courses which are part of his or her military training or service and meet the standards of the American Council of Education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit if the award is based upon the institution's admission standards and its role, scope, and mission. Beginning for the 2013-2014 academic year and every year thereafter, the department and every governing body of a postsecondary education institution must adopt the necessary rules and procedures to implement these provisions;

(2) Specifies that the Department of Health and Senior Services must require every health-related licensing board to establish a procedure to ensure that any active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who, at the time of activation, was a member in good standing with a professional licensing body and was licensed or certified in his or her profession or vocation be kept in good standing and requires his or her license to be renewed without paying the fee or dues or obtaining continuing education credits under specified circumstances. The license or certificate must be continued as long as the person is on active duty and for at least six months after discharge from active duty; and

(3) Requires, by January 1, 2013, every examination and professional board upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence to accept education, training, or service completed by a person who is a member of the United States Armed Forces or Reserves, the national guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any state toward the qualifications to receive the license or certification. The Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration must promulgate rules to implement these provisions.