

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
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S. B. No. 13

Senator Gentile

**Cosponsors: Senators Brown, Cafaro, Kearney, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Skindell,
Smith, Tavares, Turner**

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A B I L L

To enact sections 3333.0412, 5903.05, and 5907.071 of 1
the Revised Code to enhance support and services 2
for veterans at state institutions of higher 3
education and to require each institution to 4
develop a policy for awarding academic credit to 5
veterans for training received while in the 6
military. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3333.0412, 5903.05, and 5907.071 of 8
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 3333.0412. (A) As used in this section, "state 10
institution of higher education" means a state university or 11
college as defined in division (A)(1) of section 3345.12 of the 12
Revised Code, community college established under Chapter 3354. of 13
the Revised Code, state community college established under 14
Chapter 3358. of the Revised Code, university branch established 15
under Chapter 3355. of the Revised Code, or technical college 16
established under Chapter 3357. of the Revised Code. 17

(B) The chancellor of the Ohio board of regents shall do all 18

of the following: 19

(1) Work with the department of veterans services to develop 20
a model for training counselors of student veterans at state 21
institutions of higher education regarding the unique needs of and 22
challenges faced by student veterans; 23

(2) Facilitate regular statewide meetings for personnel at 24
state institutions of higher education who regularly provide 25
services to student veterans to enable them to discuss and develop 26
best practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and hear 27
presentations by individuals with generally accepted expertise in 28
subjects relevant to the needs of and challenges faced by student 29
veterans; 30

(3) Develop and facilitate communications between state 31
institutions of higher education, military bases in the state, and 32
veteran organizations in the state to advance causes that benefit 33
student veterans. 34

Sec. 5903.05. (A) As used in this section: 35

"State institution of higher education" means a state 36
university or college as defined in division (A)(1) of section 37
3345.12 of the Revised Code, community college established under 38
Chapter 3354. of the Revised Code, state community college 39
established under Chapter 3358. of the Revised Code, university 40
branch established under Chapter 3355. of the Revised Code, or 41
technical college established under Chapter 3357. of the Revised 42
Code. 43

"Veteran" means a person who served on active duty for more 44
than one hundred eighty days and was discharged or released from 45
active duty with other than a dishonorable discharge or a person 46
who was discharged or released from active duty because of a 47
service-connected disability. 48

(B) The board of trustees of a state institution of higher education shall establish and implement and, as it becomes necessary or advisable, shall improve and re-implement measures requiring the institution under the board's supervision and management to do all of the following:

(1) Award academic credit to a student veteran at the institution for training or service completed by the student veteran as a member of the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component thereof, the Ohio national guard, the Ohio military reserve, or the Ohio naval militia, and that meets the standards of the American council on education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit;

(2) Establish and sponsor an organization for student veterans on campus and encourage other veteran-friendly organizations;

(3) Periodically survey student veterans to identify their needs and challenges they face;

(4) Appoint and train faculty members within each degree program or major as liaisons and contacts for student veterans, and provide these faculty members with sensitivity and awareness training on military and veterans culture, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, physical and mental disabilities, suicide, and hypervigilance;

(5) Coordinate existing disability services on campus with veteran disability services available from the United States department of veterans affairs, the department of veterans services, veterans service commissions, other federal and state agencies, and private resources;

(6) Provide counselors who are trained to effectively respond to the unique needs of and challenges faced by student veterans, and provide services or provide referrals to services to fulfill

the needs of student veterans and to help student veterans meet 80
challenges they face; and 81

(7) Establish a program that creates collaborative 82
relationships between student veterans and alumni of the 83
institution, that links student veterans with prospective 84
employers, and that provides student veterans with social 85
opportunities. 86

Sec. 5907.071. As used in this section, "state institution of 87
higher education" means a state university or college as defined 88
in division (A)(1) of section 3345.12 of the Revised Code, 89
community college established under Chapter 3354. of the Revised 90
Code, state community college established under Chapter 3358. of 91
the Revised Code, university branch established under Chapter 92
3355. of the Revised Code, or technical college established under 93
Chapter 3357. of the Revised Code. 94

The veterans service commission of a county in which a state 95
institution of higher education is located may appoint as needed a 96
sufficient number of county veteran service officers to serve as 97
campus veterans service officers at the state institution of 98
higher education. 99

A state institution of higher education shall provide 100
accommodations that may be utilized by veteran service officers to 101
provide assistance to student veterans. 102

Section 2. A board of trustees of a state institution of 103
higher education shall establish and implement the measures 104
required by section 5903.05 of the Revised Code not later than 105
July 1, 2013. 106