



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 13

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Gentile, Brown, Cafaro, Kearney, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Skindell, Smith, Tavares, Turner

BILL SUMMARY

- Enhances support and services for veterans at state institutions of higher education.
- Requires state institutions of higher education to develop a policy for awarding academic credit to veterans for training received while in the military.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Support and services for veterans

The bill enhances support and services for veterans at state institutions of higher education by establishing new requirements for the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education, and the county veterans services commission in each county where a state institution of higher education is located.

Definitions

"State institution of higher education"¹ means a state university or college,² community college, state community college, university branch,³ or technical college.

¹ R.C. 3333.0412(A), R.C. 5903.05(A), and R.C. 5907.071.

² The following, including their Boards of Trustees, are state universities or colleges: University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, Youngstown State University, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University.

"Veteran" means a person who served on active duty for more than 180 days and was discharged or released from active duty with other than a dishonorable discharge or a person who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.⁴

Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents

Under the bill, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents must do all of the following:

(1) Work with the Department of Veterans Services to develop a model for training counselors of student veterans at state institutions of higher education regarding the unique needs of and challenges faced by student veterans;

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

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

Boards of trustees of state institutions of higher education

Under the bill, not later than July 1, 2013, the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education must establish and implement and, as it becomes necessary or advisable, must 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;

³ "University branch" means an academic program administered by a state or municipal university in a community other than the community wherein is located the main campus of such university, and affording to the students in such program academic credit corresponding to that afforded to the students on the main campus upon satisfactory completion of comparable courses of instruction. University branches are established under Chapter 3355 of the Revised Code.

⁴ R.C. 5903.05(A).

(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 challenges they face; and

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

Veteran service commissions

The bill authorizes the veterans service commission of a county in which a state institution of higher education is located to appoint as needed a sufficient number of county veteran service officers to serve as campus veterans service officers at the state institution of higher education. The bill also requires a state institution of higher education to provide accommodations that may be utilized by veteran service officers to provide assistance to student veterans.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-12-13

