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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
FOR COMBAT VETERANS

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, Felag, Bates, Ottiano, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 30 of the General Laws entitled "MILITARY AFFAIRS AND
2 DEFENSE" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 30.2

4 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMBAT VETERANS

5 **30-30.2-1. Short title.** – This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education
6 Assistance For Combat Veterans Act."

7 **30-30.2-2. Statement of purpose.** – It is hereby found and declared as follows: (1) The
8 fundamental freedoms enjoyed by all citizens of our state and these United States are insured in
9 no small part through the honorable service of our nation's military veterans;

10 (2) The people of the state have a deep debt of gratitude for the sacrifices made by these
11 men and women who as combat veterans placed their lives in harm's way to protect and defend
12 our nation from all foreign enemies and terrorist threats; and

13 (3) These men and women should be allowed to resume their education, receive academic
14 credit commensurate with their military training and experience, graduate, and ultimately obtain
15 meaningful civilian employment upon their return to Rhode Island without delay.

16 **30-30.2-3. Academic credit for military training and coursework.** – The state board of
17 education shall promulgate rules and regulations ensuring:

18 (1) The evaluation of a student's military coursework and training to determine whether

1 academic credit can be awarded for their military training experience and coursework;

2 (2) The state board of education shall prescribe, by regulation, a reverse transfer policy
3 that shall allow students to use credits earned at a four (4) year institution for an associate's
4 degree at a two (2) year institution; and

5 (3) Establishment of a preferential class registration process for all state universities and
6 centers of higher education, which shall be reviewed and approved by the adjutant general of the
7 Rhode Island national guard to allow combat veterans to register first for all classes at any state-
8 run institution of higher education. In developing rules and regulations, the office of the
9 commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the adjutant general of the Rhode Island
10 national guard, shall determine individual preference ranking among combat veterans, including,
11 but not limited to, the number of combat tours served, service awards, and any other such criteria
12 deemed appropriate by the adjutant general.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would establish various veteran-friendly educational programs in order to allow
2 service personnel returning from a combat tour to achieve educational attainment in an
3 accelerated manner.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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