

1 SB154  
2 147838-1  
3 By Senators Williams and Holtzclaw  
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs  
5 First Read: 07-FEB-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would facilitate the ability of  
9 discharged military service members to receive  
10 licensure and academic credit for military  
11 education, training, and experience. This bill  
12 would provide that a license of a service member  
13 would remain in good standing while the service  
14 member is on active duty and for six months  
15 thereafter.

16  
17 A BILL  
18 TO BE ENTITLED  
19 AN ACT  
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21 To facilitate the ability of discharged military  
22 service members receiving licensure and academic credit for  
23 military education, training, and experience; and to provide  
24 that a license of a service member shall remain in good  
25 standing while the service member is on active duty and for  
26 six months thereafter.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1                   Section 1. Legislative Findings.

2                   The Legislature recognizes the importance of active  
3 military personnel, veterans, and military facilities to the  
4 well-being, safety, and economic development of the State of  
5 Alabama. The Legislature further recognizes and finds that  
6 discharged service members leave the military with documented  
7 training and experience that can prepare them for civilian  
8 employment; however, this documentation is not always able to  
9 result in qualifying them for licenses required for their  
10 occupation or providing them with academic credit. By  
11 providing for expedited licensure and increased academic  
12 credit recognition for a service member's military training  
13 and experience, the state can help promote the employment of  
14 veterans.

15                   Section 2. Occupational Licenses Based on Military  
16 Education, Training, or Service.

17                   Each of the examining boards, licensing boards, and  
18 departments described in Chapters 1 through 43 of Title 34 of  
19 the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, shall, upon presentation  
20 of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for certification or  
21 licensure, accept education, training, or service completed by  
22 an individual as a member of the Armed Forces or reserves of  
23 the United States, the National Guard of any state, the  
24 military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any  
25 state toward the qualifications to receive the license or  
26 certification. Each such board and department shall promulgate  
27 rules to implement this section.

1                   Section 3. Academic Credits Based on Military  
2 Education, Training, or Service.

3                   Each board of a state public educational  
4 institution, community college, or technical school shall  
5 adopt, by December 31, 2013, a policy requiring each  
6 institution under the board's supervision and management to  
7 award educational credits to a student, who is also a veteran,  
8 enrolled in the institution for courses that are part of the  
9 student's military training or service and that meet the  
10 standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent  
11 standards for awarding academic credit if the award of  
12 education credit is based upon the institution's admission  
13 standards and its role, scope, and mission. Each board shall  
14 adopt necessary rules, regulations, and procedures to  
15 implement the provisions of this section, effective beginning  
16 with the 2014-2015 academic year and continuing thereafter.

17                   Section 4. Extension of Licensing for Military  
18 Service Members.

19                   (a) Notwithstanding any other statute to the  
20 contrary, any member of the Armed Forces of the United States  
21 shall be kept in good standing by the administrative or  
22 licensing body with which he or she is licensed or certified  
23 while on active duty if, at the time of activation, either of  
24 the following applies:

25                   (1) The member was in good standing and with any  
26 administrative or licensing body of the state.

1           (2) The member was duly licensed or certified to  
2 engage in his or her profession or vocation in Alabama.

3           (b) While a licensee or certificate holder is an  
4 active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States,  
5 the license or certificate referenced in subdivision (1) shall  
6 be renewed without:

7           (1) The payment of dues or fees;

8           (2) Obtaining continuing education credits when:

9           a. Circumstances associated with military duty  
10 prevent obtaining training and a waiver request has been  
11 submitted to the appropriate administrative body; or

12           b. The active duty military member performs the  
13 licensed or certified occupation as part of his or her  
14 military duties as annotated in Defense Department form 214  
15 (DD214); or

16           (3) Performing any other act typically required for  
17 the renewal of the license or certificate.

18           (c) The license or certificate issued under this  
19 section shall be continued as long as the licensee or  
20 certificate holder is a member of the Armed Forces of the  
21 United States on active duty and for a period of at least six  
22 months after discharge from active duty.

23           Section 5. If a court of competent jurisdiction  
24 adjudges invalid or unconstitutional any clause, sentence,  
25 paragraph, section, or part of this act, such judgment or  
26 decree shall not affect, impair, invalidate, or nullify the  
27 remainder of this act, but the effect of the decision shall be

1 confined to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part  
2 of this act adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional.

3 Section 6. All laws or parts of laws which conflict  
4 with this act are repealed.

5 Section 7. This act shall become effective  
6 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
7 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.