S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6480--A

I N S E N A T E

January 19, 2016

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to granting academic credit at state operated institutions of the state university of New York and the senior colleges of the city university of New York to veterans, members of the military, and reservists

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 350 of the education law is amended by adding three new subdivisions 14, 15 and 16 to read as follows:

14. "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON, MALE OR FEMALE, RESIDENT OF THIS STATE, WHO HAS SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING A WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES ENGAGED AND WHO HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM SUCH SERVICE BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN BY DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE, OR WHO HAS BEEN FURLOUGHED TO THE RESERVE.

15. "MEMBER OF THE MILITARY" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO IS ACTIVELY ENROLLED IN A BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

16. "RESERVIST" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO IS A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 362 to read as follows:

S 362. COURSE CREDIT FOR VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY, AND RESERVISTS. 1. EVERY VETERAN, MEMBER OF THE MILITARY, OR RESERVIST, AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY OF THIS ARTICLE, WHO IS ENROLLED ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING AT AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM SHALL, UPON APPLICATION, BE GRANTED UP TO SIX ACADEMIC CREDITS PER YEAR AND SIXTY CREDITS IN THE AGGREGATE TOWARDS HIS OR HER DEGREE FOR COMPLETION OF COURSES THAT WERE PART OF SUCH PERSON'S MILITARY TRAINING OR SERVICE IF THE COMPLETED COURSES MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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EDUCATION OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDITS. NO FEE, TUITION OR OTHER CHARGE SHALL BE ASSESSED AGAINST A VETERAN, MEMBER OF THE MILITARY, OR RESERVIST, WHO QUALIFIES FOR SUCH CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

2. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SHALL ADOPT SUCH PROCEDURES AS ARE NECESSARY TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 3. Section 6202 of the education law is amended by adding three new subdivisions 10, 11 and 12 to read as follows:

10. THE TERM "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON, MALE OR FEMALE, RESIDENT OF THIS STATE, WHO HAS SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING A WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES ENGAGED AND WHO HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM SUCH SERVICE BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN BY DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE, OR WHO HAS BEEN FURLOUGHED TO THE RESERVE.

11. THE TERM "MEMBER OF THE MILITARY" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO IS ACTIVELY ENROLLED IN A BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

12. THE TERM "RESERVIST" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO IS A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

S 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6217 to read as follows:

S 6217. COURSE CREDIT FOR VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY, AND RESERVISTS. 1. EVERY VETERAN, MEMBER OF THE MILITARY, OR RESERVIST, AS DEFINED IN SECTION SIXTY-TWO HUNDRED TWO OF THIS ARTICLE, WHO IS ENROLLED ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING AT AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE CITY UNIVERSITY SYSTEM SHALL, UPON APPLICATION, BE GRANTED UP TO SIX ACADEMIC CREDITS PER YEAR AND SIXTY CREDITS IN THE AGGREGATE TOWARDS HIS OR HER DEGREE FOR COMPLETION OF COURSES THAT WERE PART OF SUCH PERSON'S MILITARY TRAINING OR SERVICE IF THE COMPLETED COURSES MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDITS. NO FEE, TUITION OR OTHER CHARGE SHALL BE ASSESSED AGAINST A VETERAN, MEMBER OF THE MILITARY, OR RESERVIST, WHO QUALIFIES FOR SUCH CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

2. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK SHALL ADOPT SUCH PROCEDURES AS ARE NECESSARY TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 5. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.