STATE OF NEW YORK

2680--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 22, 2021

Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, BROOKS, GAUGHRAN, HARCKHAM, KAPLAN, LIU, SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- 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 city university of New York to veterans

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 21 to read as follows:

21. a. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "veteran" means a person who served in the United States army, navy, air force, marines, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard and/or New York naval militia and who (1) has received an honorable or general discharge from such service, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section three hundred fifty of the executive law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section three hundred fifty of the executive law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.

b. Every veteran who is enrolled on a full-time basis as an undergraduate student in good standing, at an institution within the state university system, shall upon application be granted academic credits without limitation towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of the institution awarding such credits. No fee, tuition or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this subdivision.

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

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c. The board of trustees shall adopt such procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this subdivision.

§ 2. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 21 to read as follows:

21. a. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "veteran" means a person who served in the United States army, navy, air force, marines, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard and/or New York naval militia and who (1) has received an honorable or general discharge from such service, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section three hundred fifty of the executive law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section three hundred fifty of the executive law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.

b. Every veteran who is enrolled on a full-time basis as an undergraduate student in good standing, at an institution within the city university system, shall upon application be granted academic credits without limitation towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of the institution awarding such credits. No fee, tuition or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this subdivision.

c. The board of trustees shall adopt such procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this subdivision.

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