STATE OF NEW YORK

7739--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BERGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "military experience recognized for institutional transfer (MERIT) act"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "military experience recognized for institutional transfer (MERIT) act".

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6355 to read as follows:

§ 6355. Military experience recognized for institutional transfer (MERIT) act. 1. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision three of section one of the veterans' services law.

2. (a) Every veteran who is enrolled on a full-time basis as an undergraduate student in good standing at an institution within the city university of New York and state university of New York system shall, upon application, be granted academic credit for military learning, training, coursework, and occupational experience. Such credit shall not be limited to elective credit. Each institution shall develop and maintain a clear, standardized framework for evaluating and applying military learning toward degree requirements, including but not limited to major requirements, general education or core curriculum requirements, prerequisite coursework, and required experiential or applied learning components, provided that the evaluated military learning is determined to meet the academic standards and learning outcomes of the corresponding course or requirement. In developing such framework, each institution shall utilize nationally recognized evaluation standards for mili-

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

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tary learning, including but not limited to methodologies established by the American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), or any successor entities performing equivalent evaluation functions.

(b) Such framework shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) a transparent and publicly posted process for veterans to submit joint services transcripts, training records, and relevant service documentation;

(ii) faculty review procedures for assessing alignment of military learning with existing course outcomes;

(iii) written determinations, including specific justification when military learning is not accepted toward a degree requirement;

(iv) an annual report to the board of trustees of the state university of New York or the city university of New York summarizing determinations and credit awarded;

(v) procedures for aligning military learning with learning outcomes using nationally recognized frameworks, including ACE credit recommendations and CAEL standards for evaluating competency, content mastery, and contact-hour equivalency; and

(vi) a requirement that faculty evaluators receive guidance or training on the application of the standards established pursuant to this section to ensure consistent, transparent, and academically rigorous determinations across departments.

3. No fee, tuition or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section.

4. The board of trustees of the state university of New York and the city university of New York shall adopt such procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this section.

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