

Amendment to SB 726-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2
3 AN ACT relative to programs to aid veterans' access to employment, housing, health care, and
4 college degrees.
5

6 Amend RSA 126-A:81, I as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

7
8 I. In this act, "veteran" means veterans as defined in 15 U.S.C. section 632(q)(2) and (3).
9

10 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

11
12 3 Report Required. On or before April 1, 2021, the commissioner of the department of health
13 and human services shall produce a report of the findings, including the impact that Medicaid
14 expansion has had to date for the veterans and their families, recommendations and any additional
15 legislative action or budget actions required relative to RSA 126-A:81, II as inserted by section 2 of
16 this act to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the governor, and
17 the chairpersons of the senate and house committees having jurisdiction over public health issues.

18 4 Business Finance Authority; Capital Access Program. Amend RSA 162-A:12, II to read as
19 follows:

20 II. The amount of the authority's contribution to a CAP fund shall not exceed 10 percent of
21 the principal amount of the CAP loans to be secured by the CAP fund. As a condition of the
22 authority making a contribution to a CAP fund, the authority may require the borrower or the
23 participating state bank or state credit union to make a contribution to the CAP fund and may
24 impose such other conditions or requirements as the authority may deem necessary or desirable;
25 ***provided that no veteran-owned business borrower shall be required to pay a fee or***
26 ***contribution into the CAP fund.*** All moneys contributed to a CAP fund shall be held in the name
27 of the authority. Investment earnings on the CAP fund shall be credited to the fund, and such
28 earnings shall be periodically paid to the authority unless the CAP participation agreement
29 otherwise provides.

30 5 New Sections; Department of Employment Security; Workforce Needs Projections for
31 Veterans; Training and Apprentices Programs. Amend RSA 282-A by inserting after section 117-a
32 the following new sections:

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1 282-A:117-b Workforce Needs Projections for Veterans; Report. The commissioner shall produce
2 a monthly, written report, which shall also be published on the department's public Internet site,
3 detailing the state's workforce needs projections, by industry, job type, geography, and needed
4 credential. The report shall include comparisons of projected workforce needs with existing
5 workforce needs and availability of in-demand fields in this state and shall highlight, on a county-by-
6 county basis, the industries, job types, and credentials which are most in demand in the state. The
7 report shall also identify and map, on a county-by-county basis, those in-demand positions and
8 credentials that are best suited to the skills, experience, and credentials possessed by veterans. The
9 commissioner shall forward the report every month to all appropriate military placement offices,
10 recruitment centers, education centers, nonprofit programs, and any other state or local agency
11 working to connect veterans with jobs.

12 282-A:117-c Training and Apprenticeship Programs for Veterans; Report. The adjutant general in
13 cooperation with the commissioners of the departments of labor and employment security shall
14 annually review and submit a report detailing all apprenticeship, training, and other vocational
15 programs in this state focused on providing job training and placement to returning military service
16 members and veterans. The annual report shall evaluate the costs and results of such programs and
17 propose legislation to expand or revise such programs, an estimate of the benefits to the state to be
18 gained from program expansion, and recommendations for sources of funding. The initial report
19 shall be submitted to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
20 chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in
21 professional licensing issues, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor within 60 days of
22 the effective date of this section.

23 6 New Sections; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; Programs and Report
24 Added. Amend RSA 110-B by inserting after section 73 the following new sections:

25 110-B:73-a Military Skills Test Waiver Program. The adjutant general shall take necessary
26 steps to increase veterans' awareness of and participation in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
27 Administration's Military Skills Test Waiver Program. The adjutant general shall include
28 information about the program and a link to the program's website on department's public Internet
29 site and shall coordinate with military placement and training programs to disseminate information
30 on the program to veterans with relevant experience newly locating in New Hampshire.

31 110-B:73-b Acceptance of Military Training and Experience in Professional Licensing; Report.
32 The adjutant general and the executive director of the office of professional licensure and
33 certification shall jointly conduct a review of all state licenses for which military veterans may have
34 relevant training or experience and identify any steps that can be taken without further legislation;
35 develop recommendations and proposed legislation designed to increase the acceptance of military
36 training and experience toward professional licensing; and submit a report to the president of the
37 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house

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committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in professional licensing issues, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor within one year of the effective date of this section, and annually thereafter.

110-B:73-c End Veterans Homelessness Program.

I. The adjutant general, in conjunction with providers of services for veterans experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire, shall establish a program to end veterans homelessness in 3 years. The term "end veterans homelessness" shall have the same meaning as in the most recently released report by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

II. In coordination with local, state, and federal government agencies and nonprofits, and in consultation with states and cities that have achieved an end to veterans homelessness in accordance with the above criteria, the adjutant general shall develop and implement strategies including but not limited to:

(a) Coordinating a community outreach and a common assessment tool to identify veterans experiencing homelessness and assessing the types and severity of risk and vulnerability being faced by veterans experiencing homelessness.

(b) Developing a comprehensive listing of the names of veterans who are experiencing homelessness, prioritized based on degree of vulnerability.

(c) Sharing data between all relevant veterans' service providers, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and VA medical centers.

(d) Increasing coordination and streamlining processes for appropriate veterans' housing placements.

(e) Connecting veterans experiencing homelessness to health, mental health, employment, entrepreneurship, and training resources through the services described under RSA 126-A:81, RSA 126-A:82, RSA 162-A:9-b, RSA 282-A:117-b, RSA 282-A:117-c, RSA 110-B:73-a, RSA 110-B:73-b, RSA 153-A:20, XXV, RSA 187-A:20-d, RSA 188-F:16-b, RSA 326-B:9, XIII, and RSA 328-D:10, I(j).

(f) A commitment to the principles of Housing First, as developed by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

(g) Identifying and applying for funding, as needed from private, foundation, and other partners.

7 New Paragraph; Emergency Medical Care Providers; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 153-A:20 by inserting after paragraph XXIV the following new paragraph:

XXV. Implementing strategies and procedures necessary to increase the acceptance of military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans seeking to be licensed as an emergency medical care provider.

8 New Section; State College and University System; Credit for Military Experience and Training. Amend RSA 187-A by inserting after section 20-c the following new section:

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1 187-A:20-d Academic Credit and Course Registration for Veterans.

2 I. A veteran who enrolls as a student at an institution within the university system shall be
3 granted maximum credits allowed by the institution's required accreditation standards or state
4 licensure requirements towards his or her degree for the completion of courses that were part of such
5 veteran's military training or service if the such courses meet the standards of the American Council
6 on Education, or its equivalent, for the awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge
7 shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section.

8 II.(a) Institutions within the state university system that offer an early course registration
9 period shall also offer early course registration to students who are veterans or national guard
10 members.

11 (b) A student who is called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States, after
12 having attended regularly for 85 percent of the length of the course as determined by the academic
13 calendar of class or having completed 85 percent of the term's work, shall be given an opportunity to
14 complete necessary course work within 12 months utilizing the Internet or United States Postal
15 Service correspondence or other available communication methods for each course in which such
16 student is earning a grade of C or better in the term the student is called to active duty service.

17 (c) Students called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States shall have
18 their tuition refunded or credited, whichever is deemed appropriate by the institution based on how
19 the term was paid for, without credits awarded.

20 (d) A veteran with no previous college experience shall be permitted to file an admission
21 application and enroll in the current open registration period pending completion of their application
22 and provision of supporting documents.

23 (e) Within 12 months of return from active duty, a veteran may register for courses after
24 normal registration period ends without late fees or other penalties until the latest allowable
25 registration date.

26 III. The board of trustees shall establish policies necessary to implement this section.

27 9 New Section; Community College System of New Hampshire; Academic Credit and Course
28 Registration for Veterans. Amend RSA 188-F by inserting after section 16-a the following new
29 section:

30 188-F:16-b Academic Credit and Course Registration for Veterans and Active Duty Services
31 Members.

32 I. A veteran who enrolls as a student at an institution within the community college system
33 shall be granted academic credit for the completion of courses that were part of such veteran's
34 military training or service if the such courses meet the standards of the American Council on
35 Education, or its equivalent, for the awarding of academic credits and are applicable to the veteran's
36 program of study. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies

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1 for such credit pursuant to this section. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter
2 established curriculum, program, or degree requirements.

3 II.(a) Institutions within the community college system that offer an early course
4 registration period shall also offer early course registration to students who are veterans or national
5 guard members.

6 (b) A student who is called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States, after
7 having completed 85 percent of the term's work, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to attain
8 full credit for each course in which he or she has attained a grade of C or better prior to being called
9 to active duty. A reasonable opportunity may include the opportunity to accelerate completion of
10 course work prior to reporting for active duty or complete coursework within a reasonable time after
11 return from active duty.

12 (c) Students called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States who do not
13 meet the institution's attendance requirements sufficient, as a request of such service, to earn a
14 grade shall be entitled to a full refund of tuition and fees.

15 (d) A veteran shall be permitted to file an admission application up to the end of the
16 regular course registration period, and shall be permitted to begin classes pending completion of
17 their application and provision of supporting documents. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be
18 construed to alter established admissions, course prerequisites, curriculum, programs or degree
19 requirements.

20 (e) Within 12 months of return from active duty, a veteran may register for courses after
21 normal registration period ends without late fees or other penalties. This subparagraph shall not be
22 construed to require extension of registration period beyond the normal add/drop deadline.

23 III. The board of trustees shall establish policies necessary to implement this section.

24 10 New Paragraph; Nurse Practice Act; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 326-B:9 by inserting after
25 paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

26 XIII. The implementation of strategies and procedures necessary to increase the acceptance
27 of military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans seeking to be licensed as
28 a nurse.

29 11 Physician Assistant; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-D:10, I(j) to read as follows:

30 (j) ***The implementation of strategies and procedures necessary to increase the***
31 ***acceptance of military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans***
32 ***seeking to be licensed as a physician assistant.***

33 (k) Except as provided in paragraph II, any other matter which is consistent with the
34 legislative intent of this chapter and which is necessary to the administration of this chapter.

35 12 Recognition of Military Training and Experience; Reports. The adjutant general, the
36 commissioner of the department of safety, the executive director of the office of professional licensure
37 and certification, and the licensing authorities for nursing under RSA 326-B, physician assistants

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1 under RSA 328-D, and emergency medical care providers under RSA 153-A:11, shall jointly conduct
2 a review of all licensing procedures for each profession listed in this section and develop
3 recommendations and proposed legislation designed to increase the recognition of military training
4 and experience toward licensing in such professions, and shall submit a report to the president of the
5 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house
6 committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in professional licensing issues, the senate clerk,
7 the house clerk, and the governor within one year of the effective date of this section.

8 13 Applicability. Sections 2, 3 and 6 of this act shall take effect when the department of
9 military affairs and veterans services receives sufficient funding for 3 positions required to carry out
10 the purposes of those sections as certified by the adjutant general to the director of legislative
11 services and the secretary of state.

12 14 Effective Date.

13 I. Sections 2, 3, and 6 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 13 of this act.

14 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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2020-1042s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill

I. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to develop and operate a veteran health navigator training program for the existing veterans service officers under the department of military affairs and veterans services to provide veterans and their families increased access to health care and mental health services.

II. Requires the commissioner of the department of employment security to publish a monthly workforce needs assessment report for veterans.

III. Requires the adjutant general to take steps to increase veterans' awareness of the military skills test waiver program; increase acceptance of military training and experience towards the licensing requirements in certain occupations and professions; and establish an end veterans homelessness program.

IV. Requires the university system and community college system of New Hampshire to award college credit for military training courses completed and to increase flexibility in application and course registration procedures for veterans.

V. Requires the adjutant general to review expanded training and apprenticeship programs for providing job training for veterans and to submit a report detailing the findings.