

Floor 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 subdivision, "veteran" means veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).
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 For the purposes of this section, "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

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

21 II. The amount of the authority's contribution to a CAP fund shall not exceed 10 percent of
22 the principal amount of the CAP loans to be secured by the CAP fund. As a condition of the
23 authority making a contribution to a CAP fund, the authority may require the borrower or the
24 participating state bank or state credit union to make a contribution to the CAP fund and may
25 impose such other conditions or requirements as the authority may deem necessary or desirable;
26 ***provided that no veteran-owned business borrower shall be required to pay a fee or***
27 ***contribution into the CAP fund.*** All moneys contributed to a CAP fund shall be held in the name
28 of the authority. Investment earnings on the CAP fund shall be credited to the fund, and such
29 earnings shall be periodically paid to the authority unless the CAP participation agreement
30 otherwise provides. ***For the purposes of this paragraph, "veteran" means veteran as defined***
31 ***in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).***

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1 5 New Sections; Department of Employment Security; Workforce Needs Projections for
2 Veterans; Training and Apprentice Programs. Amend RSA 282-A by inserting after section 117-a
3 the following new sections:

4 282-A:117-b Workforce Needs Projections for Veterans; Report. The commissioner shall produce
5 a monthly, written report, which shall also be published on the department's public Internet site,
6 detailing the state's workforce needs projections, by industry, job type, geography, and needed
7 credential. The report shall include comparisons of projected workforce needs with existing
8 workforce needs and availability of in-demand fields in this state and shall highlight, on a county-by-
9 county basis, the industries, job types, and credentials which are most in demand in the state. The
10 report shall also identify and map, on a county-by-county basis, those in-demand positions and
11 credentials that are best suited to the skills, experience, and credentials possessed by veterans. The
12 commissioner shall forward the report every month to all appropriate military placement offices,
13 recruitment centers, education centers, nonprofit programs, and any other state or local agency
14 working to connect veterans with jobs. For the purposes of this section, "veterans" means veterans
15 as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

16 282-A:117-c Training and Apprentice Programs for Veterans; Report. The adjutant general in
17 cooperation with the commissioners of the departments of labor and employment security shall
18 annually review and submit a report detailing all apprentice, training, and other vocational
19 programs in this state focused on providing job training and placement to returning military service
20 members and veterans. The annual report shall evaluate the costs and results of such programs and
21 propose legislation to expand or revise such programs, an estimate of the benefits to the state to be
22 gained from program expansion, and recommendations for sources of funding. The initial report
23 shall be submitted to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
24 chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in
25 professional licensing issues, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor within 60 days of
26 the effective date of this section. For the purposes of this section, "veterans" means veterans as
27 defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

28 6 New Sections; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; Programs and Report
29 Added. Amend RSA 110-B by inserting after section 73 the following new sections:

30 110-B:73-a Military Skills Test Waiver Program. The adjutant general shall take necessary
31 steps to increase veterans' awareness of and participation in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
32 Administration's Military Skills Test Waiver Program. The adjutant general shall include
33 information about the program and a link to the program's website on department's public Internet
34 site and shall coordinate with military placement and training programs to disseminate information
35 on the program to veterans with relevant experience newly locating in New Hampshire. For the
36 purposes of this section, "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

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1 110-B:73-b Acceptance of Military Training and Experience in Professional Licensing; Report.
2 The adjutant general and the executive director of the office of professional licensure and
3 certification shall jointly conduct a review of all state licenses for which military veterans may have
4 relevant training or experience and identify any steps that can be taken without further legislation;
5 develop recommendations and proposed legislation designed to increase the acceptance of military
6 training and experience toward professional licensing; and submit a report to the president of the
7 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house
8 committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in professional licensing issues, the senate clerk,
9 the house clerk, and the governor within one year of the effective date of this section, and annually
10 thereafter. For the purposes of this section, "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C.
11 section 101(2).

12 110-B:73-c End Veterans Homelessness Program.

13 I. The adjutant general, in conjunction with providers of services for veterans experiencing
14 homelessness in New Hampshire, shall establish a program to end veterans homelessness in 3 years.
15 The term "end veterans homelessness" shall have the same meaning as in the most recently released
16 report by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. For the purposes of this section,
17 "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

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

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

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

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

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

31 (e) Connecting veterans experiencing homelessness to health, mental health,
32 employment, entrepreneurship, and training resources through the services described under RSA
33 126-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
34 110-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-
35 D:10, I(j).

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

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

3 7 New Paragraph; Emergency Medical Care Providers; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 153-A:20 by
4 inserting after paragraph XXIV the following new paragraph:

5 XXV. Implementing strategies and procedures necessary to increase the acceptance of
6 military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans seeking to be licensed as an
7 emergency medical care provider. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "veterans" means veterans
8 as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

9 8 New Section; State College and University System; Credit for Military Experience and
10 Training. Amend RSA 187-A by inserting after section 20-c the following new section:

11 187-A:20-d Academic Credit and Course Registration for Veterans.

12 I. A veteran who enrolls as a student at an institution within the university system shall be
13 granted maximum credits allowed by the institution's required accreditation standards or state
14 licensure requirements towards his or her degree for the completion of courses that were part of such
15 veteran's military training or service if the such courses meet the standards of the American Council
16 on Education, or its equivalent, for the awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge
17 shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section. For the
18 purposes of this section, "veteran" means veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 9 New Section; Community College System of New Hampshire; Academic Credit and Course
2 Registration for Veterans. Amend RSA 188-F by inserting after section 16-a the following new
3 section:

4 188-F:16-b Academic Credit and Course Registration for Veterans and Active Duty Services
5 Members.

6 I. A veteran who enrolls as a student at an institution within the community college system
7 shall be granted academic credit for the completion of courses that were part of such veteran's
8 military training or service if the such courses meet the standards of the American Council on
9 Education, or its equivalent, for the awarding of academic credits and are applicable to the veteran's
10 program of study. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies
11 for such credit pursuant to this section. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter
12 established curriculum, program, or degree requirements. For the purposes of this section, "veteran"
13 means veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 10 New Paragraph; Nurse Practice Act; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 326-B:9 by inserting after
36 paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

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1 XIII. The implementation of strategies and procedures necessary to increase the acceptance
2 of military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans seeking to be licensed as
3 a nurse. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C.
4 section 101(2).

5 11 Physician Assistant; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 328-D:10, I(j) to read as follows:

6 (j) *The implementation of strategies and procedures necessary to increase the*
7 *acceptance of military training and experience towards licensure for military veterans*
8 *seeking to be licensed as a physician assistant. For the purposes of this subparagraph,*
9 *"veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).*

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

12 12 Recognition of Military Training and Experience; Reports. The adjutant general, the
13 commissioner of the department of safety, the executive director of the office of professional licensure
14 and certification, and the licensing authorities for nursing under RSA 326-B, physician assistants
15 under RSA 328-D, and emergency medical care providers under RSA 153-A:11, shall jointly conduct
16 a review of all licensing procedures for each profession listed in this section and develop
17 recommendations and proposed legislation designed to increase the recognition of military training
18 and experience toward licensing in such professions, and shall submit a report to the president of the
19 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house
20 committees with jurisdiction in veterans issues and in professional licensing issues, the senate clerk,
21 the house clerk, and the governor within one year of the effective date of this section. For the
22 purposes of this subparagraph, "veterans" means veterans as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(2).

23 13 Applicability. Sections 2, 3 and 6 of this act shall take effect when the department of
24 military affairs and veterans services receives sufficient funding for 3 positions required to carry out
25 the purposes of those sections as certified by the adjutant general to the director of legislative
26 services and the secretary of state.

27 14 Effective Date.

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

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

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2020-1209s

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 with 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.