

SCS SB 106 -- EDUCATIONAL CREDITS FOR VETERANS

SPONSOR: Brown

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute requires, by January 1, 2014, the Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to adopt a policy requiring every public university, college, and vocational and technical school to award credits to a student who is a veteran for courses that are part of his or her military training or service and that meet the standards of the American Council of Education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit if the award is based on the institution's admission standards and its role, scope, and mission.

Every health-related licensing board must establish a procedure to ensure that a member of the armed forces with a health-related professional license or certificate in good standing when entering active duty will remain in good standing while on active duty. The renewal of a license or certificate while the member is on active duty must occur without the payment of dues, and continuing education will not be required if certain requirements are met.

The substitute also allows any education training or service as a member of the armed forces, if satisfactory to the licensing board, to be applied toward the qualifications to receive a license or certificate from a professional licensing board.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows a veteran to apply the education and training he or she received in the military for college credits and prevents the lapsing of his or her professional licenses while deployed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; and Rich Heigert, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.