



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Higher Education

Testimony
by
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before the
Veterans' Affairs Committee
1:00 p.m. – LOB Room 1C
Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessey, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino and distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding House Bill No. 5299 (RAISED) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINDINGS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE. This bill allows institutions of higher education to award college credit for military training in accordance with recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education (ACE). The Office of Higher Education has been designated by the Governor to serve as the State Approving Agency (SAA) in Connecticut. The SAA contracts with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to promote and safeguard G.I. Bill educational benefits through policy and program approval in accordance with Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). As a requirement for approval to enroll qualified veterans to use their G.I. Bill educational benefits at an institution of higher learning, Section 21.4253, CFR, requires the institution must have a policy and ensures they evaluate all prior education and training and when it meets the policy standards, credit will be awarded and the training period shortened proportionately. While we support the acceptance of military training for college credit to expedite transitioning veterans towards degree and certificate attainment, the SAA and its approved institutions in Connecticut currently operate under the requirements of the CFR regarding prior credit. We look forward to continuing our work with Connecticut institutions to streamline veterans transition to higher education.