

CHAPTER 2023-158

Senate Bill No. 274

An act relating to nursing education pathway for military combat medics; providing a short title; amending s. 464.0195, F.S.; revising a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that development of a statewide plan for nursing manpower must include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience; amending s. 1004.096, F.S.; defining the term “accredited program”; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a workgroup to establish a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accredited nursing education programs for military training and education required for service in specified positions; providing for the composition of and the provision of administrative support to the workgroup; requiring that the workgroup ensure that the award of credit for military training and education does not impair a nursing education program’s ability to comply with requirements relating to the approval of nursing education programs; requiring the workgroup to provide, by a specified date, recommendations regarding the determination process to the Board of Governors and State Board of Education for approval; requiring that, upon approval of the recommendations, the Articulation Coordinating Committee facilitate the review of military training and education received by individuals who served in specified positions and the determination of minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours awarded for specified military training and education; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee, within a specified timeframe and annually thereafter, approve a prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for such training and education; requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to adopt the prioritized list; requiring that the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours be delineated in a required statewide articulation agreement; requiring state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers to award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours in nursing education programs based on the prioritized list; authorizing the award of additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours; providing that such postsecondary credit or career education clock hours are transferable; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act.”

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 464.0195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464.0195 Florida Center for Nursing; goals.—

(2) The primary goals for the center shall be to:

(a) Develop a strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower in this state by:

1. Conducting a statistically valid biennial data-driven gap analysis of the supply and demand of the health care workforce. Demand must align with the Labor Market Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136. The center shall:

a. Establish and maintain a database on nursing supply and demand in the state, to include current supply and demand.

b. Analyze the current and future supply and demand in the state and the impact of this state’s participation in the Nurse Licensure Compact under s. 464.0095.

2. Developing recommendations to increase nurse faculty and clinical preceptors, support nurse faculty development, and promote advanced nurse education.

3. Developing best practices in the academic preparation and continuing education needs of qualified nurse educators, nurse faculty, and clinical preceptors.

4. Collecting data on nurse faculty, employment, distribution, and retention.

5. Piloting innovative projects to support the recruitment, development, and retention of qualified nurse faculty and clinical preceptors.

6. Encouraging and coordinating the development of academic-practice partnerships, including partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience, to support nurse faculty employment and advancement.

7. Developing distance learning infrastructure for nursing education and advancing faculty competencies in the pedagogy of teaching and the evidence-based use of technology, simulation, and distance learning techniques.

Section 3. Subsection (3) is added to section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, to read:

1004.096 Postsecondary credit for military training and education courses.—

(3)(a) For purposes of this subsection, the term “accredited program” has the same meaning as in s. 464.003.

(b) By July 15, 2023, the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene a workgroup that is responsible for establishing a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in an accredited program for military training and education required for service as an Army Combat Medic Specialist, a Navy or Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman, an Air Force or Space Force Aerospace Medical Service Technician, or a Coast Guard Health Services Technician.

1. The composition of the workgroup and the provision of administrative support to the workgroup must be as provided in paragraphs (2)(a) and (b). The workgroup shall ensure that the award of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours does not impair an accredited program’s ability to comply with the requirements identified in s. 464.019.

2. The workgroup shall provide its recommendations regarding the process for awarding postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education by December 1, 2023, for approval at the next meeting of each board to allow for adequate public notice.

3.a. Upon approval of the workgroup’s recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review of the military training and education received by individuals who served as an Army Combat Medic Specialist, a Navy or Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman, an Air Force or Space Force Aerospace Medical Service Technician, or a Coast Guard Health Services Technician for postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for that training and education.

b. Within 1 year after such approval, the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies, and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in an accredited program for such military training and education. The list must be updated annually. The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall adopt the list approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee at their next respective meetings. For the purpose of statewide application, postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in an accredited program for such military training and education must be delineated by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement required by s. 1007.23(1).

4. State universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers shall award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for

such military training and education based on the list adopted pursuant to sub-subparagraph 3.b. if the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward the student's degree or certificate and may award additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours as appropriate. Postsecondary credit or career education clock hours awarded under this subsection are transferable from one state university, Florida College System institution, or career center to another.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 26, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 26, 2023.