



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2013-05K

Directing State Departments, Boards and Commissions to Streamline the State Licensing Process to Take into Account Relevant Military Education and to Direct the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, in Collaboration with Presidents of the University System of Ohio, to Simplify the Process for Awarding College Credit for Military Education for Veterans and Service Members

WHEREAS, Ohio has nearly 900,000 military veterans residing in the state and another 80,000 residents currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, which includes active duty members as well as National Guard and Reserve forces.

WHEREAS, more than 75,000 Ohioans have served in the United States Armed Forces in support of combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world since September 11, 2001.

WHEREAS, the 2012 annual unemployment rate among all Ohio veterans was 7.6% and post-9/11 veterans' unemployment rate was 12.8%.

WHEREAS, Ohio employers report a deficit of job-seekers and workers with 21st century education and skills that can be filled by access to a highly-trained and educated cohort of veteran employment candidates.

WHEREAS, current and former military members have received extensive education and skills training in a broad range of areas that directly correlate to private sector occupations and as a result of their military experience have gained leadership and management perspectives that are invaluable to today's employers.

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio is committed to ensuring access to quality and affordable higher education for veterans of the United States Armed Forces through the University System of Ohio.

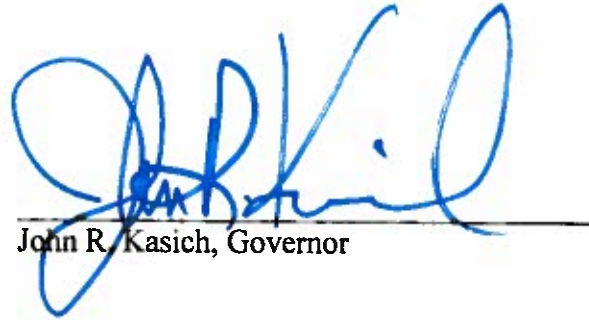
WHEREAS, more than 22,000 people are attending institutions of higher education in Ohio, utilizing federal veteran education benefits.

WHEREAS, all public institutions of higher education in Ohio have begun to use the American Council on Education *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training and experience.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. State departments, boards and commissions that issue occupational certifications or licenses shall:
 - a. To the extent permitted by law, review and revise policies and procedures to streamline the certification and licensing process to take into account relevant military education, skills training, and service when determining equivalency for purposes of issuing certifications and licenses.
 - b. Identify state and federal laws that are barriers to the revision of policies and procedures to further streamline the issuance of certifications and licenses based upon relevant military education, training, or service, and advise the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation regarding any such barriers and recommended actions for reform by December 31, 2013.
2. The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, in collaboration with the presidents of the University System of Ohio institutions, shall:
 - a. Based on information provided in the resources of the American Council on Education, conduct a thorough review of current institutional policies on identifying military education and training to qualify for college credit, identify institutional policy recommendations to simplify that process, and make available additional awards of college credit that correspond to academic programs offered at the institution.
 - b. Identify state and federal laws that are barriers to the revision of institutional policies and procedures to further streamline the award of college credit, and advise the Board of Regents regarding any such barriers and recommended actions for reform by December 31, 2013.
3. The Ohio Department of Veteran Services, Ohio Board of Regents, University System of Ohio institutions, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Adjutant General's Department and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation will conduct coordinated outreach to service members, veterans and veteran organizations to ensure they are aware of available employment, licensure and academic benefits.

I signed this Executive Order on June 11, 2013, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.



John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State

Excerpt from House Bill 488

The **board of trustees of each state institution of higher education** shall do all of the following by December 31, 2014:

- (A) *Designate at least one person employed by the institution to serve as the contact person for veterans and service member affairs. Such a person shall assist and advise veterans and service members on issues related to Am. Sub. H. B. No. 488 130th G.A.*
- (B) *Adopt a policy regarding the support and assistance the institution will provide to veterans and service members.*
- (C) *Allow for the establishment of a student-led group on campus for student service members and veterans and encourage other service member- and veteran-friendly organizations.*
- (D) *Integrate existing career services to create and encourage meaningful collaborative relationships between student service members and veterans and alumni of the institution, that links student service members and veterans with prospective employers, and that provides student service members and veterans with social opportunities; and, if the institution has career services programs, encourage the responsible office to seek and promote partnership opportunities for internships and employment of student service members and veterans with state, local, national, and international employers.*
- (E) *Survey student service members and veterans to identify their needs and challenges and make the survey available to faculty and staff at the state institution of higher education. And periodically conduct follow-up surveys, at a frequency determined by the board, to gauge the institution's progress toward meeting identified needs and challenges.*

The chancellor of the Ohio board of regents shall provide guidance to state institutions of higher education in their compliance with this section, including the recommendation of standardized policies on support and assistance to veterans and service members.

The person or persons designated under division (A) of this section shall not be a person currently designated by the institution as a veterans administration certifying official. (R.C. 3345.421)

[S]hall establish an appeals procedure for students who are veterans or service members for resolving disputes regarding the awarding of college credit for military experience. (R.C. 3345.423)

State institutions of higher education shall do all of the following by December 31, 2014:

1. *[E]ach state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall provide a student who is either a veteran or a service member with priority for course registration. (R.C. 3345.422)*
2. *[N]o state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall charge a student who is a veteran or a service member any fee for the evaluation of, transcription of, or application for college credit for military experience. (R.C. 3345.424)*

State institutions of higher education shall do all of the following by July 1, 2015 (R.C. 3333.164 C):

1. *[E]nsure that appropriate equivalent credit is awarded for military training, experience, and coursework that meet the standards developed by the chancellor pursuant to this section. (R.C. 3333.164 C)*

3342-4-14 University Policy regarding support and assistance policy for service members and veterans

- (A) Policy statement. Kent state university seeks to assist service members and veterans as they pursue an advanced degree and/or certificate. In an effort to better serve this population, Kent state university has adopted this policy as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.421 (B). The purpose of this policy is to set forth the support and assistance Kent state university will provide to service members and veterans.
- (B) Definitions.
- (1) In alignment with Section 3345.42 of the Ohio Revised Code, this policy utilized the definitions for “service member” and “veteran”:
- (a) “Service member” means a person who is serving in the armed forces of the United States.
- (b) “Veteran” means any person who has completed service in the armed forces, including the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the armed forces, and who has been discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service.
- (C) Implementation.
- (1) Kent state university will provides the following support and assistance to service members and veterans:
- (a) Establish and maintain a service member and veteran student services office;
- (b) Refer service members and veterans to proper local, state and/or federal agencies in the event Kent state university believes that the service member or veteran is eligible for services;
- (c) Work with the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) to develop a veteran-friendly campus that increases the opportunity for service members and veterans to succeed academically;
- (d) Work with other Ohio institutions of higher education to disseminate and share promising practices for serving service members and veterans effectively;
- (e) Promote veteran-friendly campuses by utilizing OBR’s structure to disseminate and share promising practices statewide for serving service members and veterans effectively;
- (f) Train appropriate faculty and staff to increase awareness of the mindset and unique needs of service members and veterans returning from combat zones and/or tours of duty overseas;
- (g) Create “safe zones” for service members and veterans through a student service member/veteran club, organization or association and through campus-wide awareness training;
- (h) Provide a portion of student orientation (or a separate session) specifically for service members and veterans;
- (i) Recognize the service of service members and veterans at various events such as graduation, community service awards, honors awards and an appreciation day;

3342-4-14 University Policy regarding support and assistance policy for service members and veterans

- (j) Regularly evaluate institutional policies and procedures that create barriers to service member and veteran success;
 - (k) Empower those working directly with service members and veterans to provide services designed to promote educational achievement;
 - (l) Provide training, in partnership with Veteran Affairs, in the proper certification methods for certifying officials on each campus;
 - (m) Develop a clear outreach strategy to communicate with eligible persons about educational and training benefits to encourage the use of GI Bill benefits, as well as services and assistance offered by the institution;
 - (n) Continue to work with the legislature, workforce and higher education community to identify and develop statewide policies to ensure the transition to higher education is seamless for all students, including service members and veterans. (This may include, but is not limited to, issues such as transfer, credit for prior learning and/or experience, career ladders, support services, etc.); and
 - (o) Ensure the campus community is aware of benefits associated with the new Post 9/11 GI Bill and through the campus veterans' office and veteran coordinator(s) to actively find ways to connect returning service members and veterans with the services offered by the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- (2) Workforce Training and Education.
- (a) Kent state university will work to provide better access and success for service members and veterans in postsecondary education and training while improving transition to civilian work.
 - (b) Services provided will include:
 - (i) An online tool for exploring careers, searching programs in Ohio and providing consumer reporting information on earnings and employment outcomes for each program. This website should include special information targeted to service members and veterans regarding shortening the time to receive a credential or degree through:
 - (a) Expanding credit for prior learning;
 - (b) Articulation and transfer agreements;
 - (c) Bridge programs;
 - (d) Applied bachelor's degrees; and
 - (e) Online tools.
 - (ii) Improving services for service member and veteran job seekers by promoting seamless workforce development services such as those provided at Ohio Means Job Centers, campus career centers and affiliates.