

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1863
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	n/a
Author:	Representative Coody
Date:	3/23/2012
Impact:	\$0 Immediate

Research Analysis

The engrossed version of Senate Bill 1863 creates the Post-Military Service Occupation, Education and Credentialing Act. The act authorizes public and private institutions of higher education to apply academic credit to education, training and experience received through military duty for honorably discharged members of the military who become students at institutions of higher education or career technology centers within three years of the end of their military service. Governing boards must adopt policies by January 1, 2013. Courses must meet the standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent standards.

The measure also instructs administrative bodies, state agency directors or officials with authority over professional licensure to accept qualifications received during military service and apply them toward licensure where applicable. The measure also authorizes health-related agencies to expedite the licensure of military spouse applicants if the military member is on active duty within the state or claims permanent residency in the state for six months prior to assignment to active duty or during the period of active duty. The applicant must be certified in another state to perform those professional services and have left employment in another state to accompany the spouse on active duty. A temporary permit may be issued if the person needs to complete additional requirements not required in the previous state.

The measure also allows for the extension of professional licenses for active duty military members and time to activate the license after military service. While deployed the active member may renew licenses without payment or continuing education.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

Fiscal Analysis

As the measure's language regarding utilization of the Guide, awarding educational credits, and endorsements of licenses or certifications is permissive, there is no immediate impact. However, to fully implement the provisions, the State Department of Career and Technology Education requests a minimum of \$250,000 for 2 FTE to assist in aligning Oklahoma's required standards with the Guide and to coordinate with at least 2 military bases. The agency's total request exceeds \$7 million, and would cover the requests sets forth in the agency's budget request for Industry Training and Workforce Development (\$5,697,704), annualizing the FY-11 supplemental (\$1,400,000) and career readiness certification (\$600,000). This funding would ensure the agency's ability to provide services for the 13,000 estimated new job placements for service members and their spouses. With regard to the State Regents, costs will reportedly vary by institution.

Prepared By: Nicole Barnes

Other Considerations

None