

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 129

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159—Relative to postsecondary education.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 18, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 159, Gorell. Postsecondary education: military veterans.

This measure encourages the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to consider and adopt the American Council on Education credit recommendations to give veterans due credit for their military experience.

WHEREAS, There are over 1.4 million Americans actively serving in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Veterans represent a broad spectrum of our society that include older students with work and family responsibilities, students whose college entry has been delayed, first-generation students, and students with lower and middle socioeconomic statuses; and

WHEREAS, Veterans returning from overseas combat encounter many obstacles to reentering society such as posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have gained valuable skills through their military training and combat experience; and

WHEREAS, Some of this experience is firsthand experience in much needed professions such as emergency medicine, engineering, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The G.I. Bill gives veterans the ability to enroll in postsecondary education courses after returning from service; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States enacted the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252) to encourage returning veterans to attain a college education by covering the cost of tuition and providing other incentives; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education credit recommendations are strong indicators of military experience and knowledge acquired, and that experience should be counted toward college credit; and

WHEREAS, More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize the American Council on Education endorsed transcripts as official documentation of military experiences and accurate records of applicable American Council on Education credit recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Education has historically been viewed as the great equalizer; and

WHEREAS, The California State Assembly and Senate value military service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California are encouraged to consider and adopt the American Council on Education credit recommendations to give veterans due credit for their military experience, which will result in more veterans graduating from a public postsecondary educational institution, and will help ensure the success of our veterans at our public postsecondary educational institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the authors for appropriate distribution.