

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 372

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Hueso, Lara, Pan, and Yamada)

February 14, 2011

~~An act to add Section 66025.7 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.~~ *An act to amend Section 78212 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 372, as amended, Roger Hernández. ~~Public postsecondary education: veterans' academic credit.~~ *California community colleges: matriculation services.*

Existing law establishes a matriculation process that brings a college and a student who enrolls for credit into agreement for the purpose of realizing the student's educational objectives. The agreement involves the responsibilities of both parties to attain those objectives through the college's established programs, policies, and requirements.

This bill would require that military personnel, veterans, and specified other students be given a prior learning assessment to determine college-level learning gained in other than a college credit setting. The bill would require the assessment to meet the standards of the American Council on Education, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, or other equivalent standard for awarding academic credits.

~~Existing law requires the California State University and each community college district, and requests the University of California, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, to grant priority for registration~~

for enrollment to any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States for any academic term attended at one of these institutions within 2 years of leaving active duty.

This bill would require the California State University and each community college district, to develop criteria for granting academic credit for the military training received by any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States. This requirement would be implemented by January 1, 2012.

Because the bill would impose additional duties on the California Community Colleges in developing and implementing academic credit for military training, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions:

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: ~~yes~~no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 66025.7 is added to the Education Code,~~
- 2 ~~to read:~~
- 3 ~~66025.7. (a) The California State University and each~~
- 4 ~~community college district shall develop criteria for granting~~
- 5 ~~academic credit for the military training received by any member~~
- 6 ~~or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States.~~
- 7 ~~(b) The criteria developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be~~
- 8 ~~implemented by January 1, 2012.~~
- 9 SEC. 2. ~~If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~
- 10 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~
- 11 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~
- 12 ~~pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division~~
- 13 ~~4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~
- 14 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 15 *following:*

1 (a) California has an estimated population of nearly 2 million
2 veterans, with approximately 30,000 veterans who returned from
3 service in 2010.

4 (b) Military service personnel returning from service face many
5 unexpected challenges in assimilating back to civilian life, such
6 as finding employment or getting a higher educational degree.

7 (c) As of 2010, the job market in California was grim for
8 workers of all ages with an unemployment rate still above 12
9 percent. However, among California veterans between 18 and 24
10 years of age, the unemployment rate was a staggering 25 percent.

11 (d) Each year, millions of military service personnel receive
12 extensive training experiences equivalent or comparable to the
13 content in credit classes.

14 (e) Depending on the specialty area, returning veterans have
15 received significant education in concepts relating to engineering,
16 management, accounting, leadership, medical treatment, logistics,
17 and computer systems, among others.

18 (f) A recent Council for Adult and Experiential Learning study
19 of more than 62,000 adult students at 48 institutions nationwide
20 showed that students with prior learning experience credit had
21 higher graduation rates, greater persistence, and needed less time
22 to earn degrees, compared to students without prior learning
23 experience credit.

24 (g) Students who are veterans are being denied admission at
25 higher education institutions at an increasingly alarming rate.

26 SEC. 2. Section 78212 of the Education Code is amended to
27 read:

28 78212. (a) For purposes of this article, “matriculation” means
29 a process that brings a college and a student who enrolls for credit
30 into an agreement for the purpose of realizing the student’s
31 educational objectives. The agreement involves the responsibilities
32 of both parties to attain those objectives through the college’s
33 established programs, policies, and requirements.

34 The student’s responsibilities under the agreement include the
35 expression of at least a broad educational intent upon enrollment,
36 the declaration of a specific educational objective within a
37 reasonable period after enrollment, diligence in class attendance
38 and completion of assigned coursework, and the completion of
39 courses and maintenance of progress toward an educational goal

1 according to standards established by the college, the district, and
2 the state.

3 (b) Matriculation services to be made available by the colleges
4 shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

5 (1) Processing of the application for admission.

6 (2) Orientation and preorientation services designed to provide
7 to students, on a timely basis, information concerning campus
8 procedures, academic expectations, financial assistance, and any
9 other matters the college or district finds appropriate.

10 (3) Assessment and counseling upon enrollment, which shall
11 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

12 (A) Administration of assessment instruments to determine
13 student competency in computational and language skills.

14 (B) Assistance to students in the identification of aptitudes,
15 interests and educational objectives, including, but not limited to,
16 associate of arts degrees, transfer for baccalaureate degrees, and
17 vocational certificates and licenses.

18 (C) Evaluation of student study and learning skills.

19 (D) Referral to specialized support services as needed, including,
20 but not limited to, federal, state, and local financial assistance;
21 health services; campus employment placement services; extended
22 opportunity programs and services provided pursuant to Article 8
23 (commencing with Section 69640) of Chapter 2 of Part 42; campus
24 child care services provided pursuant to Article 4 (commencing
25 with Section 8225) of Chapter 2 of Part 6; programs that teach
26 English as a second language; and disabled student services
27 provided pursuant to Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 67300)
28 of Part 40.

29 (E) Advisement concerning course selection.

30 (F) *For military service personnel and veterans, trade*
31 *apprentices and journey-level professionals, the provision of a*
32 *prior learning assessment of college-level learning gained in other*
33 *than a college credit setting. The prior learning assessment will*
34 *be determined by relevant faculty and related equivalent*
35 *educational credit will be awarded that meets the standards of the*
36 *American Council on Education, the Council for Adult and*
37 *Experiential Learning, or other equivalent standard for awarding*
38 *academic credits.*

39 (4) Postenrollment evaluation of each student’s progress, and
40 required advisement or counseling for students who are enrolled

1 in remedial courses, who have not declared an educational objective
2 as required, or who are on academic probation, as defined by
3 standards adopted by the Board of Governors of the California
4 Community Colleges and community college districts.

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