

HOUSE No. 5000

Text of an amendment, recommended by the committee on Ways and Means (see House document numbered 4978), to the Senate Bill relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents (Senate, No. 2559), as changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading and as amended by the House. July 7, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 15MMMMMM the following 4 sections:-

3 Section 15NNNNNN. The governor shall annually set apart June 14, the anniversary of
4 the founding of the United States Army, in recognition of the distinguished patriotic services
5 rendered by that organization, and by the citizens of the commonwealth who so gallantly served,
6 and shall issue a proclamation recommending that the day be observed by the people in the
7 display of the flag and in appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and
8 sacrifices of the citizens of the commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the
9 defense of the United States.

10 Section 15OOOOOO. The governor shall annually set apart September 18, the
11 anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force, in recognition of its distinguished
12 history of service as a projector of American air power in support and defense of the nation, and
13 by the citizens of the commonwealth who so gallantly served, and shall issue a proclamation

14 recommending that the day be observed by the people in the display of the flag and in
15 appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and sacrifices of the citizens of the
16 commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the defense of the United States.

17 Section 15PPPPPP. The governor shall annually set apart December 13, the anniversary
18 of the founding of the National Guard, in recognition of its role as an operational reserve of the
19 United States Army and Air Force, providing ready, well-equipped personnel and equipment to
20 support the federal military mission when called upon by the President and the governor of the
21 commonwealth to respond to domestic emergencies, and by the citizen soldiers and airmen of the
22 commonwealth who have unfailingly answered the call of duty, and shall issue a proclamation
23 recommending that the day be observed by the people in the display of the flag and in
24 appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the services and sacrifices of the citizens of the
25 commonwealth who have served and continue to serve in the defense of the United States.

26 Section 15QQQQQQ. The governor shall annually set apart August 4, the anniversary of
27 the founding of the United States Coast Guard, in recognition of its distinguished history and
28 seagoing service, and shall issue a proclamation recommending that the day be observed by the
29 people in the display of the flag and in appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the
30 services and sacrifices of the citizens of the commonwealth who have served and continue to
31 serve in the defense of the United States.

32 SECTION 2. The first paragraph of section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as
33 appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clause (t) and inserting
34 in place thereof the following clause:- (t) issue regulations defining resident of the
35 commonwealth and proof of the same for the purpose of admission and tuition expenses of

36 public institutions of higher education and prepare uniform proofs of residence to be used by all
37 public institutions; provided, however, that insofar as the Massachusetts Maritime Academy is
38 designated a regional maritime academy by the United States Maritime Administration, residents
39 of the states comprising the designated region and attending the Massachusetts Maritime
40 Academy shall be considered Massachusetts residents for the purposes of admission and tuition;
41 and provided further, that a person who is: (i) a member of the armed forces of the United States
42 and stationed in the commonwealth on active duty pursuant to military orders; (ii) the spouse of a
43 person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and stationed in the
44 commonwealth pursuant to military orders; or (iii) an unemancipated person whose parent or
45 guardian is a member of the armed forces of the United States and stationed in the
46 commonwealth pursuant to military orders, shall be considered a Massachusetts resident for the
47 purposes of admission and tuition.

48 SECTION 3. Said chapter 15A is hereby further amended by inserting after section 19 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 the following section:-

50 Section 19 $\frac{3}{4}$. A person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and
51 stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an
52 in-state student. Such a person shall not lose classification as an in-state student due to being
53 transferred on military orders, being honorably discharged or retiring while the person is residing
54 in the commonwealth after their acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state
55 system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or post-graduate
56 degree.

57 The spouse of a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and
58 stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an
59 in-state student. Such a spouse shall not lose classification as an in-state student due to the
60 member being transferred on military orders, being honorably discharged, retiring or dying while
61 the spouse is residing in the commonwealth after the spouse’s acceptance for matriculation at a
62 constituent unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading to an
63 associate, bachelor or post-graduate degree.

64 An unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces of
65 the United States and stationed in the commonwealth pursuant to military orders shall be entitled
66 to classification as an in-state student. Such a person shall not lose classification as an in-state
67 student due to their parent or guardian being transferred on military orders, being honorably
68 discharged, retiring or dying while: (i) the person is in continuous attendance toward the degree
69 for which the person is currently enrolled; or (ii) the person is residing in the commonwealth
70 after their acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state system of higher
71 education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or post-graduate degree.

72 SECTION 4. Chapter 23K of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
73 section 20 the following section:-

74 Section 20A. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
75 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

76 “Limited slot machine establishment”, the premises owned or leased by a veterans’
77 organization for use by its members in good standing.

78 “Limited slot machine license”, a gaming license issued by the commission that permits a
79 veterans’ organization to operate a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than
80 5 slot machines at a limited slot machine establishment.

81 “Limited slot machine licensee” or “licensee”, a veterans’ organization that holds a
82 limited slot machine license for its limited slot machine establishment.

83 “Local licensing authority”, the local licensing authority in the city or town in which the
84 limited slot machine establishment is located.

85 “Veterans’ organization”, any veterans’ organization that is: (i) incorporated by the
86 Congress of the United States; and (ii) included in section 4E of chapter 9.

87 (b) The commission may issue a limited slot machine license to veterans’ organizations
88 in the commonwealth.

89 A limited slot machine license shall only be issued to a veterans’ organization that: (i) has
90 been organized and actively functioning as a veterans’ organization for not less than 5 years prior
91 to being issued a license; (ii) has received the approval of the local licensing authority; and (iii)
92 has been deemed suitable and qualified pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission
93 pursuant to subsection (l).

94 No limited slot machine license issued to a veterans’ organization pursuant to this section
95 shall be transferred or assigned.

96 (c) A limited slot machine license issued by the commission pursuant to this section may
97 be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the commission or upon written request to the
98 commission by the local licensing authority. The suspension or revocation of a license issued

99 pursuant to this section may be appealed by the limited slot machine licensee to the full
100 commission, and the commission shall hear the appeal on the record. The decision rendered by
101 the commission after the hearing shall be final and the licensee shall not be entitled to further
102 review; provided, however, that in the case of a license revocation, the licensee shall be entitled
103 to reapply for a license not less than 5 years from the date in which the final decision of the
104 commission was issued.

105 (d) A limited slot machine licensee shall limit the promotion and operation of, and access
106 to, slot machines to members in good standing of the veterans' organization; provided, that no
107 member of the veterans' organization holding a limited slot machine license shall receive
108 remuneration in any form for time or effort devoted to the promotion or operation of the slot
109 machines. No member of the general public shall be permitted access to any slot machine in a
110 limited slot machine establishment.

111 (e) The profits of any slot machines shall be the property of the limited slot machine
112 licensee, and shall be used for charitable, fraternal or civic purposes, including, but not limited
113 to, veterans' benefits.

114 (f) A limited slot machine license issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for a
115 period of 5 years. The commission shall establish procedures for application and renewal and
116 may establish a fee for application or renewal not to exceed \$500. Application and renewal fees
117 shall be deposited into the Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

118 (g) Each licensee shall keep accurate records and books showing: (i) the total amount of
119 all monies deposited by members in good standing of the veterans' organization who played the
120 slot machines located in the limited slot machine establishment; (ii) the expenses incurred; and

121 (iii) the name and address of each person receiving greater than \$100 in winnings in a 24-hour
122 period. A separate checking account shall be kept of receipts and expenditures. Money for
123 expenses shall be withdrawn only by checks having preprinted consecutive numbers and made
124 payable to a specific person or corporation. No check shall be made payable to cash. All monies
125 expended for said charitable, fraternal or civic purposes shall be duly and accurately recorded as
126 to specific amounts expended and the purposes for which said amounts were expended. Proceeds
127 from the operation of the slot machines shall be kept in a separate bank account and the licensee
128 shall file an annual report on or before December 31 of each year of the charitable, fraternal and
129 civic disbursements made during the preceding year with the commission and the local licensing
130 authority in such form as the commission may prescribe. Such annual report shall be a public
131 record. The commission and the local licensing authority, or their duly authorized agents or
132 representatives, shall at all times have access to the limited slot machine establishment, as well
133 as the records and books of any licensee for the purpose of examining and checking the same.

134 (h) Each licensee shall file a return with the commission, on a form prepared by the
135 commission, and shall pay therewith a tax of 5 per cent of the gross profits derived from the slot
136 machines located in the limited slot machine establishment, which shall be deposited into the
137 Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

138 (i) No person under 21 years of age shall be permitted in that portion of any building or
139 premises of the licensee during such time as a slot machine is being played.

140 (j) A limited slot machine establishment shall keep conspicuously posted on their
141 premises a notice containing the following statement: "If you or someone you know has a
142 gambling problem and wants help, call the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health on the

143 Safer Gaming Education Line at 1-800-426-1234 or the Massachusetts Department of Public
144 Health helpline at 1-800-327-5050.”

145 (k) Limited slot machine licensees shall only acquire slot machines from a person
146 licensed as a gaming vendor under section 31.

147 (l) The commission shall, consistent with the public objectives of this chapter established
148 in section 1, promulgate regulations for the implementation, administration and enforcement of
149 this section including, without limitation, regulations that prescribe: (i) the method and form of
150 application that an applicant for licensure shall follow and complete before consideration by the
151 commission; (ii) the information to be furnished by an applicant for a limited slot machine
152 license or for the renewal of a limited slot machine license; (iii) suitability standards for
153 applicants for licensure pursuant to this section; (iv) the criteria for evaluation of the application
154 for a limited slot machine license and qualifications for licensure pursuant to this section; (v) the
155 information to be furnished by a veterans’ organization relating to the members of the veterans’
156 organization tasked with managing the slot machines; (vi) criteria for eligibility for licensure
157 under this section; (vii) conditions on the operation and control of a limited slot machine
158 establishment; and (viii) grounds and procedures for the revocation or suspension of a limited
159 slot machine license.

160 SECTION 5. Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
161 section 67A the following section:-

162 Section 67B. There shall be a Massachusetts medal of fidelity to be presented to the next
163 of kin of a service member or veteran who died as the result of (i) service-connected post-
164 traumatic stress disorder; (ii) a condition resulting from a service-connected traumatic brain

165 injury; or (iii) a service-connected disease, condition or injury related to the exposure to harmful
166 toxins, herbicides, agents or materials, where the exposure occurred while serving in the armed
167 forces of the United States, active or reserve components, or the Massachusetts national guard. A
168 service member must have entered military service or state active duty from the commonwealth,
169 have been a resident of the commonwealth at the time of death or have been a member of the
170 Massachusetts national guard at the time of death. To be eligible, a service member or veteran
171 must have served after December 6, 1941. The adjutant general or designee and 2 field grade
172 officers of the armed forces of the commonwealth detailed by the commander-in-chief shall
173 constitute a commission to make recommendations to the commander-in-chief for the awarding
174 of the Massachusetts medal of fidelity.

175 SECTION 6. Said chapter 33 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 137 the
176 following section:-

177 Section 137A. (a) For the purposes of this section the following words shall, unless the
178 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

179 “Availability of seats”, vacancies that exist in a course after the enrollment of all tuition-
180 paying students and all students who are enrolled under any scholarship or tuition waiver
181 provisions.

182 “Dependents”, immediate family members of a member who are enrolled in the Defense
183 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System in connection with the member.

184 “Member”, a Massachusetts army or air national guard member eligible pursuant to
185 subsection (d).

186 (b) There shall be a Massachusetts national guard family education program. The
187 program shall be administered by the military division and shall allow qualified members
188 pursuant to subsection (d) to transfer tuition benefits pursuant to section 137 to their dependents.

189 (c)(1) The Massachusetts national guard family education program may issue a certificate
190 of exemption from the matriculation fee and tuition to specified dependents of members enrolled
191 in a program at any public institution of higher education pursuant to section 5 of chapter 15A
192 who are qualified as provided in this section, the cost of which shall be borne by the
193 commonwealth. The credit total of tuition benefits shall not exceed 130 semester hours per
194 member, including hours transferred to a member's dependents.

195 (2) The military division shall maintain a record of tuition and fee credit totals of each
196 member, including semester hours per member.

197 (3) Dependents shall use their specified credit allotment within 10 years of member
198 separation from service or by the age of 26, whichever date is later.

199 (d) Unless a member has more than 20 years of military service, to be eligible for the
200 program the member shall: (i) extend their current service obligation or reenlist for national
201 guard education assistance program benefits pursuant to section 137 after completing their initial
202 6-year military service obligation to the Massachusetts army or air national guard; (ii) be eligible
203 to serve an additional 6-year enlistment from the date of extension or reenlistment; (iii) be in
204 good standing and a satisfactory participant in the Massachusetts army or air national guard; and
205 (iv) have not previously used the maximum tuition benefits pursuant to section 137.

206 (e) Members may split their national guard education assistance program tuition benefits,
207 pursuant to section 137, between dependents. The combined total of semester hours for members
208 and their dependents shall not exceed 130 semester hours total.

209 (f) Enrollment of a dependent in a course at any public institution of higher education
210 shall be subject to the availability of seats.

211 SECTION 7. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
212 section 6A the following section:-

213 Section 6B. (a) As used in this section, “military-connected student” shall mean a student
214 who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian: (i) is in the active military service of
215 the United States; or (ii) is full-time status during active service with the National Guard of any
216 state.

217 (b) A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the
218 commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to, or is pending transfer to, a military
219 installation within the commonwealth shall be deemed a resident pupil of the applicable school
220 district for the purposes of enrollment. A school district shall permit a military-connected student
221 to enroll preliminarily by remote registration without charge and shall not require a parent or
222 guardian of the military-connected student or the military-connected student to physically appear
223 at a location within the district to register the student; provided, however, that a parent or
224 guardian of a military-connected student shall present evidence of military orders that the parent
225 or guardian will be stationed in the commonwealth during the current or following school year.
226 To enroll a student, the parent or guardian shall use an address that: (i) is within the school
227 district where the military-connected student is to be enrolled; and (ii) is either: (A) a temporary

228 on-base billeting facility; (B) a purchased or leased home or apartment; or (C) federal
229 government or public-private venture off-base military housing. Proof of residency shall not be
230 required at the time of the remote registration but shall be required not later than 10 days of the
231 military-connected student's attendance in the school district.

232 SECTION 8. The first paragraph of section 38G of said chapter 71, as appearing in the
233 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Board" the
234 following definition:-

235 "Military spouse certificate", a license to teach that the commissioner of education may
236 issue to a person who: (i) is the spouse of a service member in the armed forces of the United
237 States, a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard of another
238 state, serving in the commonwealth or in a bordering state while residing in the commonwealth;
239 and (ii) holds a valid teaching certificate from another state in good standing but has not satisfied
240 the certification testing requirements in this section. A military spouse certificate shall be valid
241 for not less than 3 years. Service under a military spouse certificate shall be counted as service in
242 acquiring professional teacher status, contingent upon the teacher passing the applicable
243 certification tests necessary for acquiring professional teacher status.

244 SECTION 9. Said section 38G of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
245 amended by inserting after the word "temporary," in line 63, the following words:- military
246 spouse.

247 SECTION 10. Section 94 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
248 adding the following subsection:-

249 (u) For the purposes of this section, an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is
250 a member of the armed forces of the United States shall be considered a resident of the
251 commonwealth and a resident of the applicable school district if: (i) the member is being
252 relocated to or within the commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to or is pending
253 transfer to a military installation in the commonwealth; or (ii) the unemancipated person was
254 previously enrolled in high school in the commonwealth and does not reside in the
255 commonwealth due to the person's parent's or guardian's military deployment or transfer.

256 SECTION 11. Said chapter 71 is hereby further amended by adding the following
257 section:-

258 Section 99. (a) For the purposes of this section, "military-connected student" shall mean a
259 student who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is: (i) a current, reserve or
260 former member of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps,
261 United States Coast Guard, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, United States Air Force, Air
262 National Guard or Army National Guard; or (ii) a member of a military or reserve force under
263 clause (i) who was killed in the line of duty.

264 (b) The department shall designate a school as a Purple Star Campus if the school applies
265 and qualifies for the designation under this section.

266 (c) To qualify as a Purple Star Campus, a school shall:

267 (i) designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties shall include: (A)
268 identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school; (B) serving as the point of contact
269 between the school and military-connected students and their families; (C) determining

270 appropriate school services available to military-connected students; and (D) assisting in
271 coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students;

272 (ii) maintain on the school internet website an easily accessible webpage that includes
273 resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:
274 (A) school relocation, enrollment and registration, including the transferring of records; (B)
275 academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school; and (C)
276 counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled at the
277 school;

278 (iii) maintain a transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists
279 military-connected students in transitioning into the school;

280 (iv) offer professional development for staff members on issues related to military-
281 connected students; and

282 (v) offer at least 1 of the following initiatives: (A) a resolution showing support for
283 military-connected students and their families; (B) recognition of the Month of the Military
284 Child or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by the school; or (C) a partnership
285 with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active-duty military members to
286 volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.

287 (d) To comply with subsection (c), a school may partner with the school district to
288 provide: (i) an internet website required under said subsection (c) if the school does not have an
289 internet website; (ii) professional development required under said subsection (c); or (iii) an
290 initiative required under said subsection (c).

291 (e) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this
292 section.

293 SECTION 12. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
294 following section:-

295 Section 244. (a)(1) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans'
296 services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall develop, and update
297 as necessary, written educational materials about the health effects associated with chemicals
298 identified at open burn pits or other airborne hazards in overseas military deployments. Such
299 written educational materials shall include, but not be limited to: (i) symptoms associated with
300 exposure to open burn pits or other airborne hazards during overseas military deployment; (ii)
301 treatment of conditions associated with exposure to open burn pits or other airborne hazards
302 during overseas military deployment; (iii) information regarding the U.S. Department of
303 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including eligibility
304 requirements, deployment locations and dates and resources that assist with the registration
305 process; and (iv) contact information for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne
306 Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

307 (2) The commissioner shall monitor the most current published epidemiological studies
308 and recommendations, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. section 527, and developments in the study and
309 treatment of conditions associated with exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused
310 by open burn pits or other airborne hazards.

311 (3) The commissioner, in consultation with appropriate professional licensing boards and
312 professional membership associations, shall ensure the information pursuant to this section is
313 made available to all appropriate licensed health care providers in the commonwealth.

314 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans' services and
315 the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare and update as necessary
316 an informational pamphlet that shall include, but not be limited to, the health effects of exposure
317 to open burn pits or other airborne hazards, how to participate in the U.S. Department of
318 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and resources that can assist
319 with the registration process. The commissioner of veterans' services and the adjutant general of
320 the Massachusetts national guard shall distribute the informational pamphlet to organizations
321 chosen by the commissioner of veterans' services and adjutant general of the Massachusetts
322 national guard, including veteran service offices and veteran organizations. Veteran service
323 officers shall receive training to assist with the implementation of this section.

324 (c) The informational pamphlet required in subsection (b) shall be made available on the
325 department's website and the department of veterans' services' website.

326 SECTION 13. Section 1B of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as amended by section 48
327 of chapter 39 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out subsections (d) and
328 (e) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

329 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of
330 public health and each of the boards of registration and examination under the supervision of the
331 commissioner shall, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for certification
332 or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification to an applicant: (i) who is certified

333 or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose spouse is a member of the armed
334 forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to the
335 commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany the person's spouse to the
336 commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
337 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
338 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services
339 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were
340 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
341 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for
342 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
343 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
344 information to make the determination, specifying the needed information and outstanding
345 materials.

346 (e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of the
347 division of occupational licensure and each of the boards of registration and examination under
348 the supervision of the commissioner shall, upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence by an
349 applicant for certification or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification for the
350 applicant: (i) who is certified or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose
351 spouse is a member of the armed forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of
352 a military transfer to the commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany a spouse
353 to the commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
354 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
355 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services

356 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were
357 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
358 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for
359 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
360 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
361 information to make the determination, specifying the needed information and outstanding
362 materials.

363 SECTION 14. Said chapter 112 is hereby amended by inserting after section 84C the
364 following section:-

365 Section 84D. Every licensed funeral director, or their agent or servant, before an
366 agreement as to the price of the merchandise and service is made, shall: (i) make available to all
367 potential clients information regarding funeral and burial benefits for veterans pursuant to
368 sections 7 and 8 of chapter 115; and (ii) give or cause to be given to a client, a written statement
369 verifying that the funeral director, or their agent or servant, made such information available to
370 the potential client. The written statement pursuant to clause (ii) shall be signed by the funeral
371 director, or their agent or servant, and the potential client before an agreement as to the price of
372 the merchandise and service is made.

373 SECTION 15. Chapter 115 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
374 section 2C the following section:-

375 Section 2D. (a)(1) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall make information on
376 civilian licensure and certification opportunities available to members of the armed forces of the
377 United States, members of the armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans. The information

378 shall be made available in a format that allows the member or veteran to evaluate the suitability
379 of member's or veteran's military training and skills to the corresponding requirements of
380 civilian licenses and certifications available in the commonwealth and shall include, but not be
381 limited to, information on: (i) the civilian occupational equivalents of military or other
382 occupational specialties based on the corresponding branch of the military; (ii) civilian license or
383 certification requirements, including examination requirements; (iii) the availability and
384 opportunities for use of educational benefits; (iv) corresponding training; and (v) continuing
385 education opportunities that provide a pathway to licensure or certification.

386 (2) The information required under this section shall be made available by the
387 commissioner to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the armed forces
388 of the commonwealth and veterans in a manner consistent with the Transition Goals Plans
389 Success program administered under the Transition Assistance Program pursuant to 10 U.S.C.
390 1144.

391 (b) The commissioner shall, for purposes of providing educational assistance for
392 licensure and certification to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the
393 armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans, and in compliance with national security and
394 state and federal privacy requirements, compile information related to military training and
395 skills, including, but not limited to: (i) course training curricula and syllabi; (ii) levels of military
396 advancement; (iii) professional skill development; and (iv) specific civilian occupational
397 equivalents of military or other occupational specialties. To implement this section, the
398 commissioner shall make such information available to the division of occupational licensure,
399 the executive office of public safety and security, the department of public health, the executive
400 office of labor and workforce development, the registry of motor vehicles and any other agency

401 approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall make the information publicly available
402 on the department's website.

403 SECTION 16. Said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by adding the following 2
404 sections:-

405 Section 16. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of public health
406 and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall contact all members of the
407 Massachusetts national guard and all known veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces
408 residing in the commonwealth who may be eligible to participate in the U.S. Department of
409 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including, but not limited, those
410 who may have served in: (i) Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or
411 Operation New Dawn; (ii) Djibouti, Africa, on or after September 11, 2001; (iii) Afghanistan, on
412 or after September 11, 2001; (iv) Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm; or (v) in
413 the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990. Veterans or service
414 members contacted shall be encouraged to join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'
415 Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and shall be provided with contact information for
416 the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and a
417 copy of the informational pamphlet created by the commissioner of public health pursuant to
418 subsection (b) of section 244 of chapter 111.

419 (b) The commissioner shall create a database of self-identifying service members and
420 veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits or other airborne hazards, which shall include
421 the name, address, electronic address, phone number, location and period of service, and other
422 information as deemed necessary. Such information shall be used only for the purposes of

423 communicating information about exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by
424 open burn pits or other airborne hazards to service members and veterans. The database,
425 materials or other information shall be confidential and privileged, shall not be subject to chapter
426 66, or clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 and shall not be subject to subpoena,
427 discovery or introduction into evidence in any private civil action.

428 Section 17. The adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard shall request that
429 the periodic health assessment for members of the Massachusetts national guard determine
430 whether the guard member was deployed to a location that would make the guard member
431 eligible to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open
432 Burn Pit Registry, and whether the guard member was exposed to open burn pits or other
433 airborne hazards during their deployment to said location. The adjutant general shall request that
434 any guard member who during their periodic health assessment is identified as having been
435 potentially exposed to open burn pits or other airborne hazards during a deployment is
436 automatically registered to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne
437 Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry.

438 SECTION 17. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there is
439 hereby established a special legislative commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter
440 4 of the General Laws to study and report on a suitable memorial to be erected to commemorate
441 Deborah Samson, the official heroine of the commonwealth during the War of Independence
442 pursuant to section 26 of chapter 2 of the General Laws.

443 The special commission shall: (i) promote public support and education of the importance
444 of Deborah Samson to the War of Independence; (ii) identify a location for a suitable memorial

445 to commemorate Deborah Samson; (iii) evaluate the cost of erecting and maintaining the
446 memorial; and (iv) evaluate the public and private resources available to erect and maintain the
447 memorial.

448 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint
449 committee on veterans and federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chairs; 2 members of the house
450 of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives,
451 and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2
452 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, and 1 of whom
453 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; the commissioner of veterans' services or
454 a designee; the adjutant general of the national guard of the commonwealth or a designee; and 7
455 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a female veteran, 1 of whom shall
456 be a representative of the women veterans' network in the department of veterans' services, 1 of
457 whom shall be a representative of the advisory committee on women veterans established
458 pursuant to section 2 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
459 the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc., 1 of whom
460 shall be a representative of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts Inc., 1 of whom
461 shall be a representative of the AMVETS Department of Massachusetts Service Foundation, Inc.
462 and 1 of whom shall be a representative of Disabled American Veterans, Department of
463 Massachusetts, Inc.

464 (c) The commission shall submit a report of its study and recommendations, including
465 any drafts of legislation necessary to implement its recommendations, to the clerks of the house
466 of representatives and senate not later than June 1, 2023.

467 SECTION 18. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before
468 October 1, 2022, the adjutant general of the national guard and the commissioner of veterans'
469 services shall encourage the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance and simplify the
470 registration process for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry by providing for: (i)
471 identification verification for DS Logon Level 2 access to be made available at U.S. Department
472 of Veterans Affairs' community-based outpatient clinics throughout Massachusetts; (ii) the
473 creation of a paper registration option; and (iii) the creation of a process for a deceased veteran's
474 family members to participate in the Registry on behalf of said veteran.

475 SECTION 19. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 6B of
476 chapter 71 of the General Laws shall not affect or impair any agreement in effect upon the
477 effective date of this act that designates a school district for enrollment of a military-connected
478 student and any such agreement may be amended or renewed subsequent to the effective date of
479 this act.

480 SECTION 19A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the president
481 of the University of Massachusetts System, including the chancellors of the University of
482 Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and the presidents of
483 Bridgewater State University and Salem State University may establish a veteran mentoring pilot
484 program, at their respective institutions, to assist veterans attending the university to adjust to
485 civilian life. The pilot program may include educational, financial and emotional support. The
486 pilot program may also give non-veteran students the opportunity to learn the value of service
487 from veteran students and volunteer veteran mentors.

488 SECTION 20. The commissioner of public health, in consultation with the commissioner
489 of veterans' services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare
490 the informational pamphlet required by section 244 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, inserted
491 by section 12, not later than January 1, 2023.

492 SECTION 21. The request for deployment location related to the period health
493 assessment required pursuant to section 17 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, inserted by
494 section 16, shall take effect not later than January 1, 2023.

495 SECTION 22. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
496 the following subsection:-

497 (v)(1) A partnership, limited liability corporation or other legal entity engaged in business
498 in the commonwealth that is not a business corporation subject to the excise under chapter 63
499 and employs not more than 100 employees shall be allowed a credit equal to \$2,000 for each
500 member of the Massachusetts national guard hired by the partnership, limited liability
501 corporation or other legal entity. A business that is eligible for and claims the credit allowed
502 under this subsection in a taxable year shall be eligible for a second credit of \$2,000 in the
503 subsequent taxable year with respect to such member of the Massachusetts national guard,
504 subject to certification of continued employment during the subsequent taxable year.

505 (2) To be eligible for a credit under this subsection: (i) the primary place of employment
506 and the primary residence of the member of the Massachusetts national guard shall be in the
507 commonwealth and (ii) not later than the day an individual begins work, a business shall have
508 obtained the applicable certification from the office of the adjutant general that the individual is a
509 member of the Massachusetts national guard.

510 (3) The credit under this subsection shall be attributed on a pro rata basis to the owners,
511 partners or members of the legal entity entitled to the credit under this subsection and shall be
512 allowed as a credit against the tax due under this chapter from such owners, partners or members
513 in a manner determined by the commissioner.

514 (4) A credit allowed under this subsection shall not be transferable or refundable. Any
515 amount of the credit allowed under this subsection that exceeds the tax due for a taxable year
516 may be carried forward to any of the 3 subsequent taxable years.

517 (5) The total cumulative value of the credits authorized pursuant to this subsection and
518 section 38II of chapter 63 shall not exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

519 SECTION 23. Chapter 63 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
520 section 38HH the following section:-

521 Section 38II. (a) A business corporation with not more than 100 employees shall be
522 allowed a credit against its excise due under this chapter in an amount equal to \$2,000 for each
523 member of the Massachusetts national guard hired by the business corporation. A business
524 corporation that is eligible for and claims the credit allowed under this section in a taxable year
525 with respect to member of the Massachusetts national guard shall be eligible for a second credit
526 of \$2,000 in the subsequent taxable year with respect to such member of the Massachusetts
527 national guard, subject to certification of continued employment during the subsequent taxable
528 year.

529 (b) To be eligible for a credit under this section: (i) the primary place of employment and
530 the primary residence of the member of the Massachusetts national guard shall be in the

531 commonwealth and (ii) not later than the day an individual begins work, a business shall have
532 obtained the applicable certification from the office of the adjutant general that the individual is a
533 member of the Massachusetts national guard.

534 (c) In the case of a business corporation that is subject to a minimum excise under this
535 chapter, the amount of the credit allowed by this section shall not reduce the excise to an amount
536 less than such minimum excise.

537 (d) A credit allowed under this section shall not be transferable or refundable. Any
538 amount of the credit allowed under this section that exceeds the tax due for a taxable year may be
539 carried forward to any of the 3 subsequent taxable years.

540 (e) The total cumulative value of the credits authorized pursuant to this section and
541 subsection (v) of section 6 of chapter 62 shall not exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

542 SECTION 24. Clause Twenty-second of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws is
543 hereby amended by striking out subclause (a), as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and
544 inserting in place thereof the following subclause:-

545 (a) Soldiers and sailors who, as a result of disabilities contracted while in the line of duty,
546 have a disability rating of ten per cent or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or
547 by any branch of the armed forces. After the assessors have allowed an exemption under this
548 clause, no further evidence of the existence of the facts required by this clause shall be required,
549 and may not be requested by the city or town, in any subsequent year in the city or town in which
550 the exemption has been allowed, unless the disability rating determined by the Veterans
551 Administration or any branch of the armed forces is reduced to less than ten per cent; provided,

552 however, that the assessors may refuse to allow an exemption in any subsequent year if they
553 become aware that the soldier or sailor did not satisfy all of the requisites of this clause at the
554 time the exemption was first granted.