

SENATE No. 3075

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, July 28, 2022

Report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the House amendments to the Senate Bill relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents (Senate, No. 2559) (amended by the House by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 5000),-- reports, a "Bill relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents." (Senate, No. 3075).

For the Committee:

John C. Velis	Paul McMurtry
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An Act relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to immediately provide for military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

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

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

26 Section 15RRRRRR. 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 19½
49 the following section:-

50 Section 19¾. 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 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
73 section 67A the following section:-

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

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

87 SECTION 5. Said chapter 33 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 137 the
88 following section:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

111 (d) Unless a member has more than 20 years of military service, to be eligible for the
112 program the member shall: (i) extend their current service obligation or reenlist for national
113 guard education assistance program benefits pursuant to section 137 after completing their initial
114 6-year military service obligation to the Massachusetts army or air national guard; (ii) be eligible
115 to serve an additional 6-year enlistment from the date of extension or reenlistment; (iii) be in
116 good standing and a satisfactory participant in the Massachusetts army or air national guard; and
117 (iv) have not previously used the maximum tuition benefits pursuant to section 137.

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

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

123 SECTION 6. Clause Twenty-second of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws is
124 hereby amended by striking out subclause (a), as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and
125 inserting in place thereof the following subclause:-

126 (a) Soldiers and sailors who, as a result of disabilities contracted while in the line of duty,
127 have a disability rating of ten per cent or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or
128 by any branch of the armed forces. After the assessors have allowed an exemption under this
129 clause, no further evidence of the existence of the facts required by this clause shall be required,
130 and may not be requested by the city or town, in any subsequent year in the city or town in which
131 the exemption has been allowed, unless the disability rating determined by the Veterans
132 Administration or any branch of the armed forces is reduced to less than ten per cent; provided,
133 however, that the assessors may refuse to allow an exemption in any subsequent year if they
134 become aware that the soldier or sailor did not satisfy all of the requisites of this clause at the
135 time the exemption was first granted.

136 SECTION 7. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by
137 section 33 of chapter 102 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by adding the following
138 subsection:-

139 (aa)(1) A partnership, limited liability corporation or other legal entity engaged in
140 business in the commonwealth that is not a business corporation subject to the excise under
141 chapter 63 and employs not more than 100 employees shall be allowed a credit equal to \$2,000
142 for each member of the Massachusetts national guard hired by the partnership, limited liability
143 corporation or other legal entity. A business that is eligible for and claims the credit allowed
144 under this subsection in a taxable year shall be eligible for a second credit of \$2,000 in the
145 subsequent taxable year with respect to such member of the Massachusetts national guard,
146 subject to certification of continued employment during the subsequent taxable year.

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

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

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

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

161 SECTION 8. Chapter 63 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
162 section 38JJ the following section:-

163 Section 38KK. (a) A business corporation with not more than 100 employees shall be
164 allowed a credit against its excise due under this chapter in an amount equal to \$2,000 for each
165 member of the Massachusetts national guard hired by the business corporation. A business
166 corporation that is eligible for and claims the credit allowed under this section in a taxable year
167 with respect to a member of the Massachusetts national guard shall be eligible for a second credit
168 of \$2,000 in the subsequent taxable year with respect to such member of the Massachusetts
169 national guard, subject to certification of continued employment during the subsequent taxable
170 year.

171 (b) To be eligible for a credit under this section: (i) the primary place of employment and
172 the primary residence of the member of the Massachusetts national guard shall be in the
173 commonwealth; and (ii) not later than the day an individual begins work, a business shall have
174 obtained the applicable certification from the office of the adjutant general that the individual is a
175 member of the Massachusetts national guard.

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

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

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

184 SECTION 9. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
185 section 6A the following section:-

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

190 (b) A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the
191 commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to, or is pending transfer to, a military
192 installation within the commonwealth shall be deemed a resident pupil of the applicable school
193 district for the purposes of enrollment. A school district shall permit a military-connected student
194 to enroll preliminarily by remote registration without charge and shall not require a parent or
195 guardian of the military-connected student or the military-connected student to physically appear
196 at a location within the district to register the student; provided, however, that a parent or
197 guardian of a military-connected student shall present evidence of military orders that the parent
198 or guardian will be stationed in the commonwealth during the current or following school year.
199 To enroll a student, the parent or guardian shall use an address that: (i) is within the school
200 district where the military-connected student is to be enrolled; and (ii) is either: (A) a temporary
201 on-base billeting facility; (B) a purchased or leased home or apartment; or (C) federal
202 government or public-private venture off-base military housing. Proof of residency shall not be

203 required at the time of the remote registration but shall be required not later than 10 days of the
204 military-connected student's attendance in the school district.

205 SECTION 10. The first paragraph of section 38G of said chapter 71, as appearing in the
206 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Board" the
207 following definition:-

208 "Military spouse certificate", a license to teach that the commissioner of education shall
209 issue to a person who is the spouse of a service member who is: (i) in the armed forces of the
210 United States, a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard of
211 another state; and (ii) serving in the commonwealth or in a bordering state while residing in the
212 commonwealth, when such spouse holds a valid teaching certificate from another state in good
213 standing but has not satisfied the certification testing requirements in this section. The military
214 spouse certificate shall be valid for not less than 3 years. Service under a military spouse
215 certificate shall be counted as service in acquiring professional teacher status, contingent upon
216 the teacher passing the applicable certification tests necessary for acquiring professional teacher
217 status.

218 SECTION 11. Said section 38G of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
219 amended by inserting after the word "temporary," in line 63, the following words:- military
220 spouse.

221 SECTION 12. Section 94 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
222 adding the following subsection:-

223 (u) For the purposes of this section, an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is
224 a member of the armed forces of the United States shall be considered a resident of the

225 commonwealth and a resident of the applicable school district if: (i) the member is being
226 relocated to or within the commonwealth under military orders and is transferred to or is pending
227 transfer to a military installation in the commonwealth; or (ii) the unemancipated person was
228 previously enrolled in high school in the commonwealth and does not reside in the
229 commonwealth due to the person's parent's or guardian's military deployment or transfer.

230 SECTION 13. Said chapter 71 is hereby further amended by adding the following
231 section:-

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

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

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

241 (i) designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties shall include: (A)
242 identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school; (B) serving as the point of contact
243 between the school and military-connected students and their families; (C) determining
244 appropriate school services available to military-connected students; and (D) assisting in
245 coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students;

246 (ii) maintain on the school internet website an easily accessible website that includes
247 resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:
248 (A) school relocation, enrollment and registration, including the transferring of records; (B)
249 academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school; and (C)
250 counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled at the
251 school;

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

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

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

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

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

267 SECTION 14. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
268 following section:-

269 Section 244. (a)(1) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans'
270 services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall develop, and update
271 as necessary, written educational materials about the health effects associated with chemicals
272 identified at open burn pits or other airborne hazards in overseas military deployments. Such
273 written educational materials shall include, but not be limited to: (i) symptoms associated with
274 exposure to open burn pits or other airborne hazards during overseas military deployment; (ii)
275 treatment of conditions associated with exposure to open burn pits or other airborne hazards
276 during overseas military deployment; (iii) information regarding the United States Department of
277 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including eligibility
278 requirements, deployment locations and dates and resources that assist with the registration
279 process; and (iv) contact information for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs'
280 Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

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

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

288 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of veterans' services and
289 the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare and update as necessary
290 an informational pamphlet that shall include, but not be limited to, the health effects of exposure
291 to open burn pits or other airborne hazards, how to participate in the United States Department of
292 Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and resources that can assist
293 with the registration process. The commissioner of veterans' services and the adjutant general of
294 the Massachusetts national guard shall distribute the informational pamphlet to organizations
295 chosen by the commissioner of veterans' services and adjutant general of the Massachusetts
296 national guard, including veteran service offices and veteran organizations. Veteran service
297 officers shall receive training to assist with the implementation of this section.

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

300 SECTION 15. Section 1B of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as amended by section 48
301 of chapter 39 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out subsections (d) and
302 (e) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

303 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of
304 public health and each of the boards of registration and examination under the supervision of the
305 commissioner shall, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for certification
306 or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification to an applicant: (i) who is certified
307 or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose spouse is a member of the armed
308 forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to the
309 commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany the person's spouse to the

310 commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
311 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
312 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services
313 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were
314 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
315 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for
316 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
317 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
318 information to make the determination and that specifies the needed information and outstanding
319 materials.

320 (e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of
321 occupational licensure and each of the boards of registration and examination under the
322 supervision of the commissioner shall, upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence by an
323 applicant for certification or licensure, expedite the issuance of a license or certification for the
324 applicant: (i) who is certified or licensed in a state other than the commonwealth; (ii) whose
325 spouse is a member of the armed forces in the United States; (iii) whose spouse is the subject of
326 a military transfer to the commonwealth; and (iv) who left employment to accompany a spouse
327 to the commonwealth. The procedure shall include, but not be limited to, not later than 30 days
328 following the receipt of an application: (i) issuing the applicant a license or certificate; (ii)
329 issuing the applicant a temporary license or certificate to allow the applicant to perform services
330 while completing any specific requirements that may be required in the commonwealth but were
331 not required in the state in which the applicant was licensed or certified; (iii) providing
332 notification to the applicant that the applicant's experience does not satisfy the requirements for

333 licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
334 for that determination; or (iv) providing notification to the applicant that there is insufficient
335 information to make the determination and that specifies the needed information and outstanding
336 materials.

337 SECTION 16. Said chapter 112 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 84C
338 the following section:-

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

347 SECTION 17. Chapter 115 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
348 section 2C the following section:-

349 Section 2D. (a)(1) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall make information on
350 civilian licensure and certification opportunities available to members of the armed forces of the
351 United States, members of the armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans. The information
352 shall be made available in a format that allows the member or veteran to evaluate the suitability
353 of member's or veteran's military training and skills to the corresponding requirements of
354 civilian licenses and certifications available in the commonwealth and shall include, but not be

355 limited to, information on: (i) the civilian occupational equivalents of military or other
356 occupational specialties based on the corresponding branch of the military; (ii) civilian license or
357 certification requirements, including examination requirements; (iii) the availability and
358 opportunities for use of educational benefits; (iv) corresponding training; and (v) continuing
359 education opportunities that provide a pathway to licensure or certification.

360 (2) The information required under this section shall be made available by the
361 commissioner to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the armed forces
362 of the commonwealth and veterans in a manner consistent with the Transition Goals Plans
363 Success program administered under the Transition Assistance Program pursuant to 10 U.S.C.
364 1144.

365 (b) The commissioner shall, for purposes of providing educational assistance for
366 licensure and certification to members of the armed forces of the United States, members of the
367 armed forces of the commonwealth and veterans, and in compliance with national security and
368 state and federal privacy requirements, compile information related to military training and
369 skills, including, but not limited to: (i) course training curricula and syllabi; (ii) levels of military
370 advancement; (iii) professional skill development; and (iv) specific civilian occupational
371 equivalents of military or other occupational specialties. To implement this section, the
372 commissioner shall make such information available to the division of occupational licensure,
373 the executive office of public safety and security, the department of public health, the executive
374 office of labor and workforce development, the registry of motor vehicles and any other agency
375 approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall make the information publicly available
376 on the department's website.

377 SECTION 18. Said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by adding the following 2
378 sections:-

379 Section 16. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of public health
380 and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall contact all members of the
381 Massachusetts national guard and all known veterans and members of the United States armed
382 forces residing in the commonwealth who may be eligible to participate in the United States
383 Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including, but
384 not limited, those who may have served in: (i) Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi
385 Freedom or Operation New Dawn; (ii) Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001; (iii)
386 Afghanistan on or after September 11, 2001; (iv) Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert
387 Storm; or (v) in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990. Veterans or
388 service members contacted shall be encouraged to join the United States Department of Veterans
389 Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and shall be provided with contact
390 information for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open
391 Burn Pit Registry and a copy of the informational pamphlet created by the commissioner of
392 public health pursuant to subsection (b) of section 244 of chapter 111.

393 (b) The commissioner shall create a database of self-identifying service members and
394 veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits or other airborne hazards, which shall include
395 the name, address, electronic address, phone number, location and period of service and other
396 information as deemed necessary. Such information shall be used only for the purposes of
397 communicating information about exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by
398 open burn pits or other airborne hazards to service members and veterans. The database,
399 materials or other information shall be confidential and privileged, shall not be subject to chapter

400 66, or clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 and shall not be subject to subpoena,
401 discovery or introduction into evidence in any private civil action.

402 Section 17. The adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard shall request that
403 the periodic health assessment for members of the Massachusetts national guard determine
404 whether the guard member was deployed to a location that would make the guard member
405 eligible to participate in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and
406 Open Burn Pit Registry, and whether the guard member was exposed to open burn pits or other
407 airborne hazards during their deployment to said location. The adjutant general shall request that
408 any guard member who during their periodic health assessment is identified as having been
409 potentially exposed to open burn pits or other airborne hazards during a deployment is
410 automatically registered to participate in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs'
411 Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry.

412 SECTION 19. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there is
413 hereby established a special legislative commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter
414 4 of the General Laws to study and report on a suitable memorial to be erected to commemorate
415 Deborah Samson, the official heroine of the commonwealth during the War of Independence
416 pursuant to section 26 of chapter 2 of the General Laws.

417 The special commission shall: (i) promote public support and education of the importance
418 of Deborah Samson to the War of Independence; (ii) identify a location for a suitable memorial
419 to commemorate Deborah Samson; (iii) evaluate the cost of erecting and maintaining the
420 memorial; and (iv) evaluate the public and private resources available to erect and maintain the
421 memorial.

422 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint
423 committee on veterans and federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chairs; 2 members of the house
424 of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives,
425 and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2
426 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, and 1 of whom
427 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; the commissioner of veterans' services or
428 a designee; the adjutant general of the national guard of the commonwealth or a designee; and 7
429 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a female veteran, 1 of whom shall
430 be a representative of the women veterans' network in the department of veterans' services, 1 of
431 whom shall be a representative of the advisory committee on women veterans established
432 pursuant to section 2 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
433 the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc., 1 of whom
434 shall be a representative of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts Inc., 1 of whom
435 shall be a representative of the AMVETS Department of Massachusetts Service Foundation, Inc.
436 and 1 of whom shall be a representative of Disabled American Veterans, Department of
437 Massachusetts, Inc.

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

441 SECTION 20. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before
442 October 1, 2022, the adjutant general of the national guard and the commissioner of veterans'
443 services shall encourage the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance and
444 simplify the registration process for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry by

445 providing for: (i) identification verification for DS Logon Level 2 access to be made available at
446 United States Department of Veterans Affairs' community-based outpatient clinics throughout
447 the commonwealth; (ii) the creation of a paper registration option; and (iii) the creation of a
448 process for a deceased veteran's family members to participate in the Registry on behalf of said
449 veteran.

450 SECTION 21. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 6B of
451 chapter 71 of the General Laws shall not affect or impair any agreement in effect upon the
452 effective date of this act that designates a school district for enrollment of a military-connected
453 student and any such agreement may be amended or renewed subsequent to the effective date of
454 this act.

455 SECTION 22. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the president
456 of the University of Massachusetts system, including the chancellors of the University of
457 Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and the presidents of
458 Bridgewater State University and Salem State University may establish a veteran mentoring pilot
459 program, at their respective institutions, to assist veterans attending the university to adjust to
460 civilian life. The pilot program may include educational, financial and emotional support. The
461 pilot program may also give non-veteran students the opportunity to learn the value of service
462 from veteran students and volunteer veteran mentors.

463 SECTION 23. The commissioner of public health, in consultation with the commissioner
464 of veterans' services and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall prepare
465 the informational pamphlet required by section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, inserted
466 by section 14, not later than January 1, 2023.

467 SECTION 24. The request for deployment location related to the periodic health
468 assessment required pursuant to section 17 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, inserted by
469 section 18, shall take effect not later than January 1, 2023.

470 SECTION 25. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there is
471 hereby established a special legislative commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter
472 4 of the General Laws to study and report on limited slot machine licenses for veteran
473 organizations.

474 (b) The commission shall consist of: the chairs of the joint committee on veterans and
475 federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chairs; the executive director of the Massachusetts gaming
476 commission or a designee; the state treasurer or a designee; the secretary of the department of
477 veterans' services or a designee; the state commander of Department of Massachusetts Veterans
478 of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc. or a designee; and the commander of the American
479 Legion, Department of Massachusetts or a designee.

480 (c) The study shall include, but not be limited to: (i) rules and regulations for the safe and
481 efficient operation of the machines; (ii) economic impact; (iii) cost of operation; (iv) eligibility of
482 veteran organizations; (v) veteran organization demographics; and (vi) veteran gambling
483 statistics. The commission shall make recommendations for potential legislative changes and
484 related policies as the commission deems appropriate.

485 (d) The special commission shall submit a detailed report of its findings and
486 recommendations, along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations by
487 filing its report with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the house and
488 senate committees on ways and means not later than June 1, 2023.