

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 9.34 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 205/9.34 new)

7 Sec. 9.34. Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force.

8 (a) The Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force is  
9 created within the Board of Higher Education. The Task Force  
10 shall study and make recommendations on how to best effectuate  
11 the recognition of military learning for academic credit,  
12 industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees through  
13 the use of the Prior Learning Assessment. The Task Force shall  
14 be comprised of all of the following members:

15 (1) A representative from the Board of Higher  
16 Education, who shall chair the Task Force, appointed by the  
17 Board of Higher Education.

18 (2) A representative from the Illinois Community  
19 College Board appointed by the Illinois Community College  
20 Board.

21 (3) A representative from the Department of Veterans'  
22 Affairs appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

23 (4) A representative from the Illinois Discharged

1 Servicemember Task Force appointed by the Illinois  
2 Discharged Servicemember Task Force.

3 (5) A representative from the Illinois Student  
4 Assistance Commission appointed by the Illinois Student  
5 Assistance Commission.

6 (6) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

8 (7) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
9 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

10 (8) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
11 President of the Senate.

12 (9) A member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
13 Minority Leader of the Senate.

14 (10) Three faculty representatives, one from a public  
15 university, one from a public community college, and one  
16 from a private institution, appointed by the Board of  
17 Higher Education in consultation with the Illinois  
18 Community College Board and their advisory groups.

19 (11) Two presidents of Illinois colleges and  
20 universities appointed by the Board of Higher Education in  
21 consultation with the Illinois Community College Board.

22 (12) A representative from the Illinois Joining Forces  
23 Education Working Group appointed by the Illinois Joining  
24 Forces Education Working Group.

25 (13) A representative of a nonprofit organization that  
26 is recognized as having expertise in the area of the Prior

1 Learning Assessment appointed by the Board of Higher  
2 Education.

3 (14) A representative from the Office of the State Fire  
4 Marshal appointed by the State Fire Marshal.

5 Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation  
6 and may not be reimbursed for their expenses.

7 The Board of Higher Education shall provide administrative  
8 and other support to the Task Force.

9 (b) The Task Force's study shall without limitation:

10 (1) Examine the history of the Prior Learning  
11 Assessment and its impact on active military and student  
12 veterans in today's educational landscape.

13 (2) Examine policies and practices in other states to  
14 identify best practices in the Prior Learning Assessment  
15 for active military and student veterans.

16 (3) Determine current policies and practices in this  
17 State, including existing Prior Learning Assessment  
18 methods being utilized among this State's public and  
19 private colleges and universities in connection with  
20 active military and student veterans.

21 (4) Review the quality standards necessary to  
22 adequately assess military learning based on experience  
23 and non-credit education and training for purposes of  
24 awarding academic credit.

25 (5) Consider alternative means to award academic  
26 credit for active military and student veterans.

1           (6) Consider transferability of academic credit  
2           awarded by the Prior Learning Assessment and student  
3           mobility.

4           (7) Consider the importance of recognition of  
5           industry-recognized credentials by colleges and  
6           universities for the purpose of awarding academic credit.

7           (8) Consider the acceptance of industry-recognized  
8           credentials and academic credit credentials or degrees by  
9           licensing bodies.

10          (c) The Task Force shall report its findings and  
11          recommendations to the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois  
12          Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance  
13          Commission, the State Board of Education, the Department of  
14          Veterans' Affairs, the Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task  
15          Force, the General Assembly, and the Governor on or before  
16          December 1, 2016.

17          (d) This Section is repealed on December 1, 2017.

18           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19           becoming law.