

The House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 561:

A RESOLUTION

1 Recommending that the higher learning institutions of Georgia adopt the American Council
2 on Education criteria to allow separating service members to count applicable military
3 training and experience for academic credit toward degree requirements; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has an interest in promoting access to higher education
6 which would be well-served by recommending that the higher learning institutions of
7 Georgia adopt the American Council on Education criteria or develop and adopt a uniform
8 written policy and procedure governing the evaluation of military occupation, training,
9 coursework, and experience for academic credit; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to more than 751,000 veterans, the seventh highest veteran
11 population by state in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 105,000 active duty military personnel currently serve our nation on
13 one of Georgia's ten active military installations; and

14 WHEREAS, many Georgia residents and separating service members would be able to
15 pursue higher education more economically and efficiently; and

16 WHEREAS, separating service members have faithfully served the State of Georgia and the
17 United States through their various military duties; and

18 WHEREAS, the military services provide service members opportunities while on active
19 duty to work toward obtaining certifications and other credentials that are similar to the
20 education provided in institutions of higher learning in the State of Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, many separating military service members have difficulty converting their
22 military education and experiences into career opportunities as civilians; and

23 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has both a substantial economic interest and moral
24 obligation in encouraging these highly trained, separating service members to stay in Georgia
25 upon their discharge from one of Georgia's military bases and continue their contributions
26 to their communities and state as civilians.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recommend that the higher learning institutions of Georgia adopt
29 the American Council on Education criteria to allow separating service members to count
30 applicable military training and experience for academic credit toward degree requirements.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 higher learning institutions in Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of
34 Georgia, and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.