

HB 4145

2010 MAR 29 PM 3: 07

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
SECRETARY OF STATE

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2010



# ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

**House Bill No. 4145**

(By Delegates Iaquina, Fleischauer,  
Eldridge and D. Walker)



Passed March 13, 2010

In Effect Ninety Days From Passage

# ENROLLED

2010 MAR 29 PM 3: 07

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

C. CURTIS WALKER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## H. B. 4145

(BY DELEGATES IAQUINTA, FLEISCHAUER,  
ELDRIDGE AND D. WALKER)

[Passed March 13, 2010; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18B-4-9, relating to requiring the Commission and Council to establish and implement measures to provide services and facilities to assist student veterans at state institutions of higher education; and providing for annual reports to the Legislature.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §18B-4-9, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE 4. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.**

#### **§18B-4-9. Development of services and facilities for student veterans.**

- 1 (a) *Legislative findings.* -- The Legislature finds that
- 2 veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States that attend

3 institutions of higher education in this state have many  
4 unique needs, issues and concerns that most traditional  
5 students do not have. Student veterans that are returning to  
6 fulfill their needs for higher education who have been or  
7 during their pursuit of higher education may be deployed to  
8 active duty often face unique issues and concerns that are  
9 unprecedented and unique to the current generation of  
10 veterans of the post 9/11 era of service in the Armed Forces.  
11 Many of these veterans have had or will be subject to  
12 multiple deployments to active duty, including overseas  
13 deployment, resulting in many unique issues and challenges  
14 in their pursuit of higher education.

15 (b) *Legislative intent.* -- It is the intent of the Legislature  
16 that state institutions of higher education provide adequate  
17 services and facilities for student veterans in order to better  
18 serve their unique issues and needs and to make West  
19 Virginia's state institutions of higher education veteran-  
20 friendly.

21 (c) The Commission and Council each shall establish and  
22 implement measures in the state institutions of higher  
23 education under their respective jurisdictions to assure that  
24 veterans enrolled in the institutions receive services and are  
25 provided facilities appropriate for their unique needs, that  
26 student veterans complete programs of study and earn  
27 degrees, and that the institutions become veteran-friendly by  
28 actively and effectively providing academic and social  
29 support and assistance to student veterans. The measures  
30 shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

31 (1) Establishing veteran-friendly community and  
32 technical college degree programs which recognize and  
33 award academic credit toward degrees for various types of  
34 technical and vocational military training and experience;

35 (2) Developing policies for each state institutions of  
36 higher education to grant academic credit for Armed Forces  
37 experiences;

38 (3) Developing programs to facilitate student veterans in  
39 sharing their unique knowledge and experience in the  
40 military through public school programs and local  
41 community organizations;

42 (4) Establishing and sponsoring an organization for  
43 student veterans on campus and encouraging other veteran-  
44 friendly organizations;

45 (5) Appointing and training specific faculty within each  
46 degree program or major as liaisons and contacts for student  
47 veterans;

48 (6) Providing information about the Regents Bachelor of  
49 Arts Degree program to student veterans and potential  
50 student veterans;

51 (7) Coordinating existing disability services on campus  
52 with veteran disability services available from the United  
53 States Department of Veterans Affairs, other federal and state  
54 agencies, and private resources;

55 (8) Providing counselors on each campus who are trained  
56 to effectively respond to the unique needs of veterans and to  
57 provide services or provide referrals to services to fulfill  
58 these needs for student veterans;

59 (9) Developing training materials on responding to  
60 student veteran needs to be available for continued  
61 professional development of counselors to student veterans;

62 (10) Facilitating regular statewide meetings for all  
63 personnel at state institutions of higher education who  
64 regularly provide specific services to student veterans to  
65 discuss and develop best practices, exchange ideas and  
66 experiences, and hear presentations by individuals with  
67 generally accepted expertise in areas of the various needs of  
68 student veterans;

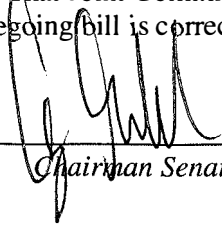
69 (11) Establishing a procedure to periodically apprise  
70 appropriate state and federal agencies of the status of student  
71 veterans in West Virginia;

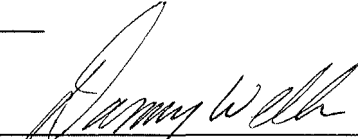
72 (12) Establishing a program to create a collaborative  
73 relationship between student veterans and alumni of the  
74 institution, and with prospective employers to facilitate and  
75 provide employment as well as social opportunities to  
76 graduating student veterans; and

77 (13) Developing and facilitating communications  
78 between state institutions of higher education and various  
79 veteran organizations in the state to advance veteran causes  
80 that benefit student veterans.

81 (d) The Commission and Council jointly shall submit a  
82 report to the Legislature on September 1, annually, on the  
83 progress toward implementing the provisions of this section.

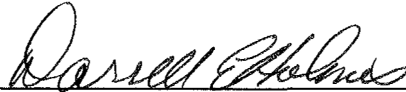
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

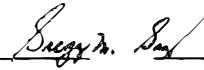
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Senate Committee

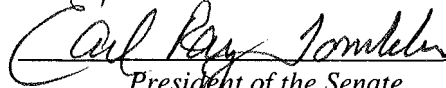
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

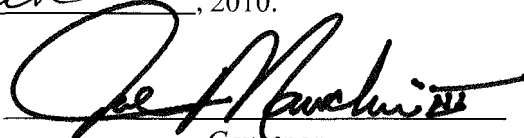
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 26<sup>th</sup>  
day of March, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

MAR 25 2010

Time 10:00am