

- SUBJECT:** Counseling students on how military service can lead to college credit
- COMMITTEE:** International Relations and Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Anchia, Blanco, Cain, Larson, Metcalf, Perez, Raney
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Frullo, Romero
- WITNESSES:** For — Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations;
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Dominic Giarratani, Texas Association of School Boards; Ellen Arnold, Texas PTA)
- Against — None
- On — Bob Gear Jr., Texas Workforce Commission
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 33.007 requires public school counselors to provide information annually to high school students and their parents or guardians on a variety of issues, including the importance of postsecondary education, instructions on how to apply for federal financial aid, and the availability of programs in the district under which a student may earn college credit, among other issues.
- DIGEST:** HB 114 would require school counselors to inform high school students annually about the availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service.
- The bill would require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in cooperation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), to develop and make available annually at each school district and open-enrollment charter school informational materials on this topic.

The information provided by a counselor would have to explain to any student who was enlisted or intended to enlist in the U.S. armed forces the informational materials developed by TWC and THECB.

HB 114 would apply beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. The bill would set a deadline of September 1, 2021, for the development and dissemination of informational materials created under this bill.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 114 would help young people better understand all of their postsecondary options by ensuring they were informed about how military service can lead to college credit. Military education and skills training in fields like medicine, communications, and technology can translate into college credit and prepare young people for the civilian workforce. A lack of information about these opportunities could have a detrimental effect on how high school students plan for their future in the military and beyond.

The bill would facilitate greater communication among high school counselors, military recruiters, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and other stakeholders. It would support the goals of Texas' 60x30 plan to boost the proportion of Texans holding a postsecondary degree or endorsement. Because public school counselors already have statutory obligations to inform students of their postsecondary options, this bill would not result in any cost to the state.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.