



COURTESY | STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Rep. Bruce Rendon, right, welcomed Staff Sgt. Trahern Jasper, center, and Jason Allen of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to testify before the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on his legislation requiring community colleges to inform applicants who have served in the military that they may be eligible for class credit based on their training while in the service.

# Rendon bill could help some veterans obtain college credit

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CADILLAC NEWS

LANSING — A new piece of legislation aims to help veterans earn college credit for training they received while serving in the armed forces.

Recently, a bill requiring Michigan community colleges to inform applicants who have served in the military that they may be eligible for class credit based on training gained while in the service was reviewed by the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Rep. Bruce Rendon, R-Lake City, sponsored House Bill 5036.

Rendon said the state is seeing as many as 10,000 veterans coming back each year, and in the district he serves, the 103rd, there is a huge population of veterans returning. He said the Legislature is trying to do all it can to give them the help they need during their transition back to civilian life. He added that many of the 28 community colleges

**The legislation** would require Michigan community colleges to inform applicants who have served in the military that they may be eligible for class credit based on training gained while in the service.

in the state are already asking for military transcripts of vets, but not all do.

This legislation, if passed, would require them to do so.

Under Rendon's bill, community colleges must inform qualified veterans, members of an armed forces reserve branch or members of the Michigan National Guard that they may qualify to receive academic credit for college-level training and education he or she received while serving in the military.

To pursue this opportunity, the applicant must submit a joint services transcript for a potential transfer credits evaluation.

"It doesn't mandate that they give

them credit but asks them to ask veterans for their military transcripts to look and see if they are eligible," he said.

Rendon asked Staff Sgt. Trahern Jasper, of Rochester Hills, to testify before the committee. Jason Allen, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency senior policy advisor, also testified.

House Bill 5036 remains under consideration by the House committee, but Rendon believes it will be moving quickly out of committee and then to the House floor. If it passes out of the house, then it would follow a similar procedure in the Senate.

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