



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo Bill Providing Academic Credit for Veteran's Military Training Approved by the State Senate

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. June 9, 2025

(Queens, NY) June 6, 2025: NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., a member of the Senate Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee, announced approval of his Senate Bill (S.1200), seeking to ease the academic transition for New York's veterans by requiring state-operated institutions of the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) to grant academic credit for military training and service that meets recognized academic standards.

"Our veterans acquire valuable skills and knowledge while serving our country — in the field, in training, and on the job," said Addabbo. "It's only right that we honor their service by recognizing that experience as credit-worthy when it aligns with academic standards."

The legislation would ensure that veterans attending SUNY or CUNY schools receive credit for military coursework certified by the American Council on Education (ACE) or equivalent academic entities. ACE has evaluated military training programs and issued college credit recommendations for more than 60 years, serving as a critical bridge between military experience and higher education.

Currently, while some institutions may accept military transcripts for transfer credit, the law does not require uniform acceptance. S.1200 seeks to create consistency across public higher

education institutions by mandating the acceptance of ACE-certified military courses when they meet academic criteria.

“This bill is about fairness, opportunity, and respect,” Addabbo said. “Veterans shouldn’t be forced to repeat coursework simply because their education came from military service instead of a classroom. S.1200 ensures our institutions live up to their mission of inclusivity and academic excellence by recognizing the real-world learning of those who’ve served,” ended Addabbo.

This bill is a continuation of Senator Addabbo’s efforts to expand services and support for New York’s military families and returning service members. The Assembly companion bill, A.3670, sponsored by Assemblymember Jones, is under consideration in the Higher Education Committee.