

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STOLTZE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 3/31/15
Referred: Education

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging the University of Alaska to consider accepting upper division**
2 **undergraduate credits awarded to members of the military and to veterans toward**
3 **masters degrees offered by the University of Alaska system.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council, which consists of members from
6 veterans organizations, state agencies, and the public who are familiar with veterans' issues, is
7 responsible for advising the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and, through the
8 governor, other state agencies on matters concerning veterans, their dependents, and their
9 survivors; and

10 **WHEREAS**, when the United States Department of Defense combined military
11 transcripts into the Joint Services Transcript, the American Council on Education evaluated
12 courses offered by advanced noncommissioned officer training schools and officer schools
13 and made academic credit recommendations for many of those courses; and

14 **WHEREAS**, since many military professions are management-focused, the American
15 Council on Education has awarded upper division undergraduate credit in management to

1 many noncommissioned officers, officers, and veterans on Joint Services Transcripts; and

2 **WHEREAS** few universities in the nation have taken the opportunity to evaluate and
3 accept Joint Services Transcript credits toward master's degrees; universities with programs
4 requiring upper division undergraduate elective credits at the 400 level or higher should
5 accept Joint Services Transcript credits when applicable and allowed by the accrediting body;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** Alaska has a large military population, and many persons in the state's
8 military population have education benefits and academic aspirations, but would have
9 difficulty completing a master's degree program before a permanent change of duty station,
10 and could benefit from the acceptance of Joint Services Transcript credits; and

11 **WHEREAS**, if the University of Alaska system accepted upper division credit from
12 Joint Services Transcripts, persons in the military population who are transitioning from the
13 military would have an incentive to remain in the state and use their education benefits in the
14 University of Alaska system, which would, in turn, benefit the state by increasing enrollment
15 in the University of Alaska system and retaining the skills and resources of those transitioning
16 military members;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the University of
18 Alaska system to work with the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council to consider accepting
19 applicable Joint Services Transcript upper division credit awarded to members of the military
20 and to veterans toward a master's degree.