

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3234

To improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2010

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Employment  
5       Assistance Act of 2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) In 2008, the unemployment rate of veterans  
2           between the ages of 18 and 24 was 14.1 percent.

3           (2) In 2009, the unemployment rate of male  
4           veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 was 21.6  
5           percent and the unemployment rate of female vet-  
6           erans in the same age group was 19.2 percent.

7           (3) The unemployment rate of veterans in all  
8           age groups is expected to increase as a result of the  
9           economic downturn that began in 2008.

10          (4) In 2004, approximately 22 percent of vet-  
11          erans were either purchasing or starting a new busi-  
12          ness, or considering doing so.

13          (5) One of the most critical problems identified  
14          by veteran small business owners is a lack of knowl-  
15          edge about programs of assistance available to small  
16          businesses.

17          (6) Members of the Armed Forces learn a wide  
18          range of technical skills during their time in the  
19          Armed Forces, but often find it difficult to transfer  
20          these skills into civilian professions.

21          (7) The Commissioner of Labor Statistics esti-  
22          mates that career opportunities in the fields of  
23          health care and information technology will expand  
24          significantly in the coming decade.

1 **SEC. 3. VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business  
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (f), by inserting “subsections  
5 (a) through (e) of” before “this section”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(g) VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator, in  
9 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall es-  
10 tablish a veterans business center program to pro-  
11 vide entrepreneurial training and counseling to vet-  
12 erans in accordance with this subsection.

13 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall ap-  
14 point a Director of the veterans business center pro-  
15 gram, who shall—

16 “(A) implement and oversee the veterans  
17 business center program; and

18 “(B) report directly to the Associate Ad-  
19 ministrator.

20 “(3) DESIGNATION OF VETERANS BUSINESS  
21 CENTERS.—The Director shall—

22 “(A) by regulation establish an application,  
23 review, and notification process under which the  
24 Director may designate entities as veterans  
25 business centers for purposes of this section;  
26 and

1           “(B) publicize the designation of an entity  
2           as a veterans business center and the award of  
3           a grant to a veterans business center under this  
4           subsection.

5           “(4) FUNDING FOR VETERANS BUSINESS CEN-  
6           TERS.—

7           “(A) INITIAL GRANTS.—The Director may  
8           make a grant to each veterans business center  
9           each year in the amount of \$150,000. The Di-  
10          rector may not make more than 5 grants under  
11          this subparagraph to a veterans business cen-  
12          ter.

13          “(B) GROWTH FUNDING GRANTS.—If a  
14          veterans business center has received 5 initial  
15          grants, the Director may make a grant to the  
16          veterans business center each year in the  
17          amount of \$100,000. The Director may not  
18          make more than 3 grants under this subpara-  
19          graph to a veterans business center.

20          “(5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each veterans busi-  
21          ness center receiving an initial grant or a growth  
22          funding grant shall—

23                 “(A) meet performance benchmarks (which  
24                 shall be established by the Director for the vet-  
25                 erans business center and reflect the purposes

1 of this subsection) to be eligible for an initial  
2 grant or growth funding grant in a subsequent  
3 year; and

4 “(B) submit to the Director an annual re-  
5 port on the performance of the veterans busi-  
6 ness center, which shall include—

7 “(i) a description of the use of the  
8 grant under this subsection and matching  
9 funds to carry out the activities of the vet-  
10 erans business center; and

11 “(ii) a description of the progress of  
12 the veterans business center in meeting the  
13 performance benchmarks described in sub-  
14 paragraph (A).

15 “(6) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each vet-  
16 erans business center receiving an initial grant or a  
17 growth funding grant shall use the funds received  
18 under the grant for—

19 “(A) veteran entrepreneurial development;

20 “(B) counseling of veterans who own small  
21 business concerns or who are seeking to own a  
22 small business concern through one-on-one in-  
23 struction and classes, including counseling re-  
24 lating to financial literacy;

1           “(C) education about services available  
2 through one-stop centers referred to in section  
3 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of  
4 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)), including veterans  
5 employment assistance and job announcement  
6 services;

7           “(D) education about tax provisions relat-  
8 ing to first time owners of business concerns,  
9 owners of small business concerns, and vet-  
10 erans;

11           “(E) information on the availability of  
12 mentoring services and referrals, as appro-  
13 priate; and

14           “(F) information on government procure-  
15 ment assistance available to veterans.

16           “(7) MATCHING FUNDS.—

17           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A veterans business  
18 center receiving an initial grant or a growth  
19 funding grant shall provide a contribution, in  
20 cash or in-kind, that is not less than 50 percent  
21 of the amount of the grant.

22           “(B) SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTION.—Not  
23 more than 25 percent of a contribution under  
24 subparagraph (A) may be provided from other  
25 Federal funds. The contribution may be pro-

1 vided from funds made available by a State,  
2 local government, or private person.

3 “(C) WAIVER.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director may,  
5 upon request, waive a portion of the  
6 matching contribution under this para-  
7 graph upon a determination of hardship to  
8 the veterans business center.

9 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-  
10 mining whether a veterans business center  
11 is experiencing a hardship, the Director  
12 shall consider—

13 “(I) whether the veterans busi-  
14 ness center is operating at an eco-  
15 nomic loss;

16 “(II) whether the veterans busi-  
17 ness center would continue to operate  
18 without a waiver; and

19 “(III) other factors the Director  
20 considers appropriate.

21 “(8) TARGETED AREAS.—The Director shall  
22 give priority to applications to be designated a vet-  
23 erans business center and for initial grants and  
24 growth funding grants under this subsection that

1 will establish a veterans business center in a geo-  
2 graphic area, as determined by the Director—

3 “(A) that is not currently served by a vet-  
4 erans business center; and

5 “(B) in which—

6 “(i) the number of veterans per capita  
7 exceeds the national median of the number  
8 of veterans per capita;

9 “(ii) the number of veterans of Oper-  
10 ation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Endur-  
11 ing Freedom per capita exceeds the na-  
12 tional median of the number of veterans of  
13 Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation En-  
14 during Freedom per capita; or

15 “(iii) the expected number of veterans  
16 of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation  
17 Enduring Freedom per capita, as deter-  
18 mined by the Secretary of Defense, will ex-  
19 ceed the national median of the number of  
20 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or  
21 Operation Enduring Freedom per capita.

22 “(9) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Director shall  
23 develop and implement, directly or by contract, an  
24 annual training program for the employees of vet-  
25 erans business centers to provide education, support,



1 and information on best practices with respect to the  
2 establishment and operation of a veterans business  
3 center. The Director shall develop the training pro-  
4 gram under this paragraph in consultation with vet-  
5 erans business centers, the task force, the Employ-  
6 ment and Training Administration and the Vet-  
7 erans' Employment and Training Service of the De-  
8 partment of Labor, and veterans service organiza-  
9 tions.

10 “(10) INCLUSION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN  
11 PROGRAM.—The Director shall designate as a vet-  
12 erans business center, and may make a initial grant  
13 to—

14 “(A) a Veterans Business Outreach Center  
15 established by the Administrator under section  
16 8(b)(17) on or before the date of enactment of  
17 this subsection; and

18 “(B) each person or entity that—

19 “(i) received funds during fiscal year  
20 2006 from the National Veterans Business  
21 Development Corporation established  
22 under section 33; and

23 “(ii) is in operation on the date of en-  
24 actment of this subsection.

1           “(11) ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF  
2 VETERAN BUSINESS CENTERS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
4 after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
5 and every year thereafter, the Administrator  
6 shall submit a report on the performance of the  
7 veterans business center program to—

8           “(i) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
9 fairs, the Committee on Appropriations,  
10 the Committee on Small Business and En-  
11 trepreneurship, and the Committee on  
12 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of  
13 the Senate;

14           “(ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
15 fairs, the Committee on Appropriations,  
16 and the Committee on Small Business of  
17 the House of Representatives; and

18           “(iii) relevant Federal agencies, in-  
19 cluding the Department of Veterans Af-  
20 fairs and the Department of Labor.

21           “(B) CONTENTS.—Each report under sub-  
22 paragraph (A) shall include, for the 1-year pe-  
23 riod ending on the date of the report—

24           “(i) an assessment of the compliance  
25 of each veterans business center receiving

1 an initial grant or growth funding grant  
2 with the performance benchmarks estab-  
3 lished for the veterans business center  
4 under paragraph (5)(A);

5 “(ii) the number of veterans assisted  
6 by a veterans business center receiving an  
7 initial grant or growth funding grant;

8 “(iii) comments, if any, from veterans  
9 who sought the assistance of a veterans  
10 business center;

11 “(iv) the success rate, as determined  
12 by the Administrator, of small business  
13 concerns owned and controlled by veterans  
14 who sought assistance from a veterans  
15 business center; and

16 “(v) any other performance indicators  
17 and information the Administrator deter-  
18 mines appropriate.

19 “(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director  
20 shall disseminate the findings of each report  
21 under subparagraph (A) online and to the vet-  
22 eran, small business, and workforce develop-  
23 ment communities.

1           “(12) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2           There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3           this subsection—

4                   “(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

5                   “(B) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

6           “(h) ADDITIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS  
7 BUSINESS CENTERS.—

8                   “(1) ACCESS TO CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

9                           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-  
10                           tablish a grant program under which the Direc-  
11                           tor may make grants to veterans business cen-  
12                           ters to—

13                                   “(i) develop specialized programs to  
14                                   assist small business concerns owned and  
15                                   controlled by veterans in securing capital  
16                                   and repairing damaged credit;

17                                   “(ii) provide informational seminars  
18                                   on financial literacy, securing loans, and  
19                                   Federal, State and local tax provisions and  
20                                   incentives for small business concerns  
21                                   owned and controlled by veterans;

22                                   “(iii) provide one-on-one counseling to  
23                                   small business concerns owned and con-  
24                                   trolled by veterans to improve the financial

1 presentations of the small business concern  
2 to lenders;

3 “(iv) facilitate the access of small  
4 business concerns owned and controlled by  
5 veterans to traditional and non-traditional  
6 financing sources; and

7 “(v) establish links to and partner-  
8 ships with local workforce boards and busi-  
9 ness mentoring organizations.

10 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not  
11 make grants under this paragraph to a veterans  
12 business center in a total amount of more than  
13 \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

14 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
15 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
16 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each  
17 of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

18 “(2) PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PRO-  
19 GRAM.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-  
21 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-  
22 tor may make grants to veterans business cen-  
23 ters to—

24 “(i) assist small business concerns  
25 owned and controlled by veterans in identi-

1           fying contracts that are suitable for the  
2           small business concern;

3           “(ii) prepare small business concerns  
4           owned and controlled by veterans to act as  
5           subcontractors and prime contractors for  
6           contracts made available under the Amer-  
7           ican Recovery and Reinvestment Act of  
8           2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 115)  
9           through training and business advice, par-  
10          ticularly with respect to the construction  
11          trades; and

12          “(iii) provide technical assistance to  
13          small business concerns owned and con-  
14          trolled by veterans relating to the Federal  
15          procurement process, including assisting in  
16          compliance with Federal regulations and  
17          bonding requirements.

18          “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not  
19          make grants under this paragraph to a veterans  
20          business center in a total amount of more than  
21          \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

22          “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
23          TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
24          to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each  
25          of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

1           “(3) SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED  
2 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-  
4 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-  
5 tor may make grants to veterans business cen-  
6 ters to—

7           “(i) develop outreach programs for  
8 service-disabled veterans with respect to  
9 the benefits of self-employment;

10          “(ii) provide tailored training to serv-  
11 ice-disabled veterans with respect to busi-  
12 ness plan development, marketing, budg-  
13 eting, accounting, and merchandising;

14          “(iii) assist small business concerns  
15 owned and controlled by service-disabled  
16 veterans in locating and securing business  
17 opportunities; and

18          “(iv) link service-disabled veterans to  
19 services provided through one-stop centers  
20 referred to in section 134(c) of the Work-  
21 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.  
22 2864(c)), including information on labor  
23 market trends, entrepreneurial and related  
24 training and training providers, student fi-

1           nancial aid, and specialized services for  
2           veterans.

3           “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not  
4           make grants under this paragraph to a veterans  
5           business center in a total amount of more than  
6           \$75,000 during any 1-year period.

7           “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
8           TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
9           to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each  
10          of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

11          “(i) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT  
12          SUMMIT.—

13           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the vet-  
14          erans business center program established under  
15          subsection (g) may hold an event, once every 2  
16          years, to provide networking opportunities, outreach,  
17          education, training, and support to veterans business  
18          centers designated under subsection (g), small busi-  
19          ness concerns owned and controlled by veterans, vet-  
20          erans service organizations, workforce investment  
21          boards of State and local governments, the Employ-  
22          ment and Training Administration and the Vet-  
23          erans’ Employment and Training Service of the De-  
24          partment of Labor, and other entities as determined  
25          appropriate by the Director.



1           “(2) PRESENTATION OF REPORT.—The findings  
2 of the most recently submitted report under sub-  
3 section (g)(12) shall be presented at an event held  
4 under this subsection.

5           “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
6 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7 this subsection \$450,000 for each of fiscal years  
8 2011 and 2012.

9           “(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

10           “(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means  
11 the Associate Administrator for Veterans Business  
12 Development appointed under section 4(b)(1);

13           “(2) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of  
14 the veterans business center program;

15           “(3) the term ‘growth funding grant’ means a  
16 grant under subsection (g)(5)(B);

17           “(4) the term ‘initial grant’ means a grant  
18 under subsection (g)(5)(A);

19           “(5) the term ‘task force’ means the inter-  
20 agency task force established under subsection  
21 (c)(1);

22           “(6) the term ‘veterans business center’ means  
23 an entity designated as a veterans business center  
24 under subsection (g)(4)(A); and

1           “(7) the term ‘veterans business center pro-  
2           gram’ means the veterans business center program  
3           established under subsection (g)(2).”.

4           (b) REPORT REGARDING DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.—

5           The Administrator of the Small Business Administration,  
6           the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Assistant Sec-  
7           retary for Veterans’ Employment and Training shall joint-  
8           ly—

9                   (1) assess the efficacy of establishing a Federal  
10           direct loan program for small business concerns  
11           owned and controlled by veterans (as defined in sec-  
12           tion 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));  
13           and

14                   (2) not later than 180 days after the date of  
15           enactment of this Act, submit a report regarding the  
16           assessment under paragraph (1) to—

17                           (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,  
18                           the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-  
19                           mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneur-  
20                           ship, and the Committee on Health, Education,  
21                           Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

22                           (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,  
23                           the Committee on Appropriations, and the  
24                           Committee on Small Business of the House of  
25                           Representatives.

1           (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
2 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b)  
3 is amended—

4           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “by the Asso-  
5 ciate Administrator for Veterans Business Develop-  
6 ment” and all that follows and inserting “by the As-  
7 sociate Administrator.”; and

8           (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “(in this  
9 section referred to as the ‘task force’)”.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**  
11 **TASK FORCE.**

12           Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
13 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14           “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after  
15 the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every  
16 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit  
17 to Congress a report on the appointments made to  
18 and activities of the task force.”.

1 **SEC. 5. PERIOD FOR COMPLETION OF TRAINING OF NEW**  
2 **DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM**  
3 **SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS' EM-**  
4 **PLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES BY NATIONAL**  
5 **VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**  
6 **SERVICES INSTITUTE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102A(c)(8)(A) of title  
8 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “three-  
9 year period” and inserting “one-year period”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) APPLICABILITY TO NEW EMPLOYEES.—The  
12 amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with  
13 respect to a State employee assigned to perform the  
14 duties of a disabled veterans' outreach program spe-  
15 cialist or a local veterans' employment representative  
16 under chapter 41 of such title who is so assigned on  
17 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (2) APPLICABILITY TO PREVIOUSLY HIRED EM-  
19 PLOYEES.—In the case of such a State employee  
20 who is so assigned on or after January 1, 2006, and  
21 before the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
22 Secretary of Labor shall require the State to require,  
23 as a condition of a grant or contract under which  
24 funds are made available to the State in order to  
25 carry out section 4103A or 4104 of title 38, United  
26 States Code, each such employee to complete satis-

1 factorily the training described in section  
2 4102A(c)(8)(A) of such title by not later than the  
3 date that is one year after the date of the enactment  
4 of this Act.

5 (c) CROSS-TRAINING.—The Secretary of Labor shall  
6 require State employees described by subsection (b) in the  
7 performance of duties described in that subsection—

8 (1) to educate staff of one-stop centers about  
9 the services such State employees provide and the  
10 programs of assistance available to veterans; and

11 (2) in order to strengthen coordination and en-  
12 hance services to veterans, to learn about the em-  
13 ployment and training and related information and  
14 services made available through the one-stop delivery  
15 system.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop  
18 center” means a one-stop center described in section  
19 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29  
20 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

21 (2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The term  
22 “one-stop delivery system” means a one-stop delivery  
23 system described in such section 134(c).

1 **SEC. 6. EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 42 of title 38, United  
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing new section:

5 **“§ 4216. Employment training assistance for unem-**  
6 **ployed veterans**

7 “(a) SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—(1) The Secretary  
8 of Labor shall, acting through the Assistant Secretary for  
9 Veterans’ Employment and Training, pay to each covered  
10 veteran a monthly training subsistence allowance under  
11 this section for each month that a covered veteran is en-  
12 rolled in a full time employment and training program  
13 that—

14 “(A) is offered by an eligible provider of train-  
15 ing services under section 122 of the Workforce In-  
16 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2842); and

17 “(B) teaches a skill that is connected to a ca-  
18 reer in an in-demand industry, as determined by the  
19 Secretary of Labor.

20 “(2) The amount of the monthly training subsistence  
21 allowance paid to a covered veteran under this subsection  
22 shall be equal to the monthly amount of the basic allow-  
23 ance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37 for  
24 a member of the Armed Forces with dependents in pay  
25 grade E–5 residing in the military housing area that en-

1 compasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area  
2 in which the covered veteran resides.

3 “(3) A covered veteran is entitled to training subsist-  
4 ence allowance under this subsection for not more than  
5 six months during each 10-year period beginning on the  
6 date in which the covered veteran first receives training  
7 subsistence allowance under this section.

8 “(b) RELOCATION STIPEND.—(1) In addition to the  
9 training subsistence allowance payable to a covered vet-  
10 eran under subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor shall,  
11 acting through the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Em-  
12 ployment and Training, pay to each covered veteran a relo-  
13 cation stipend for expenses incurred by the veteran for one  
14 relocation—

15 “(A) related to the veteran’s participation in an  
16 employment and training program described in sub-  
17 section (a)(1); or

18 “(B) to an employment opportunity related to  
19 the field or subject matter in which the veteran was  
20 trained in an employment and training program de-  
21 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

22 “(2) The amount of relocation stipend paid to a cov-  
23 ered veteran under paragraph (1) may not exceed the less-  
24 er of—

25 “(A) \$5,000; and

1           “(B) the actual amount of expenses incurred by  
2 the veteran.

3           “(c) COVERED VETERAN.—For purposes of this sec-  
4 tion, a covered veteran is a veteran who is—

5           “(1) unemployed for a period of not less than  
6 four consecutive months at the time of applying for  
7 training subsistence allowance under subsection (a);

8           “(2) able to complete successfully the employ-  
9 ment and training program described in subsection  
10 (a)(1), as determined by the Secretary of Labor; and

11           “(3) except as provided under this section, ineli-  
12 gible for education or training assistance under this  
13 title.

14           “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Labor  
15 shall submit to Congress each year a report on the effec-  
16 tiveness of the training subsistence allowance under sub-  
17 section (a) and the relocation stipend under subsection (b)  
18 during the preceding year. Each report shall include, for  
19 the year concerned by such report, the following:

20           “(1) The number of veterans who received the  
21 subsistence allowance.

22           “(2) The number of veterans who received the  
23 relocation stipend.

24           “(3) The percentage of veterans who received  
25 the subsistence allowance or relocation stipend and



1 completed an employment and training program de-  
2 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

3 “(4) The percentage of veterans who received  
4 the subsistence allowance or relocation stipend and  
5 were employed and retained upon completion of an  
6 employment and training program described in sub-  
7 section (a)(1), as measured by the Secretary of  
8 Labor.

9 “(5) The percentage of veterans who—

10 “(A) received the subsistence allowance or  
11 relocation stipend; and

12 “(B) were employed in the fourth calendar  
13 quarter of such year following graduation from  
14 an employment and training program described  
15 in subsection (a)(1).

16 “(6) The average earnings of veterans, as meas-  
17 ured by the Secretary of Labor, who—

18 “(A) received the subsistence allowance or  
19 relocation stipend; and

20 “(B) completed an employment and train-  
21 ing program described in subsection (a)(1).

22 “(7) Such other matters relating to the effec-  
23 tiveness of the subsistence allowance and the reloca-  
24 tion stipend as the Secretary of Labor considers ap-  
25 propriate.

1       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of  
3 Labor to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each fis-  
4 cal year.”.

5       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
6 at the beginning of such chapter 42 is amended by adding  
7 at the end the following:

“4216. Employment training assistance for unemployed veterans.”.

8 **SEC. 7. USE OF ENTITLEMENT UNDER POST-9/11 EDU-**  
9                   **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR APPRENTICE-**  
10                   **SHIPS AND ON-JOB TRAINING.**

11       (a) ENTITLEMENT.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33  
13 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-  
14 sserting after section 3319 the following new section:

15 **“§ 3319A. Apprenticeships and on-job training**

16       “(a) MONTHLY BENEFIT.—Except as provided in  
17 subsections (b) and (c), the amount of the monthly benefit  
18 payment to an individual pursuing a full-time program of  
19 apprenticeship or other on-job training under this chapter  
20 is—

21           “(1) for each of the first six months of the indi-  
22 vidual’s pursuit of such program, 75 percent of the  
23 monthly benefit payment otherwise payable to such  
24 individual under this chapter;

1           “(2) for each of the second six months of the  
2 individual’s pursuit of such program, 55 percent of  
3 such monthly benefit payment; and

4           “(3) for each of the months following the first  
5 12 months of the individual’s pursuit of such pro-  
6 gram, 35 percent of such monthly benefit payment.

7           “(b) REDUCTION.—In any month in which an indi-  
8 vidual pursuing a program of education consisting of a  
9 program of apprenticeship or other on-job training fails  
10 to complete 120 hours of training, the amount of the  
11 monthly benefit payment payable under this chapter to the  
12 individual shall be limited to the same proportion of the  
13 applicable rate determined under subsection (a) as the  
14 number of hours worked during such month, rounded to  
15 the nearest eight hours, bears to 120 hours.

16           “(c) HOUSING ALLOWANCE.—An individual receiving  
17 a monthly benefit pursuant to this section shall receive  
18 a monthly housing stipend amount equal to the monthly  
19 amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under  
20 section 403 of title 37 for a member with dependents in  
21 pay grade E-5 residing in the military housing area that  
22 encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code  
23 area in which the individual resides.

24           “(d) CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—For each month  
25 that an individual is paid a monthly benefit payment

1 under this chapter, the individual's entitlement under this  
2 chapter shall be charged at the rate of—

3           “(1) 75 percent of a month in the case of pay-  
4           ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(1);

5           “(2) 55 percent of a month in the case of pay-  
6           ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(2);

7           and

8           “(3) 35 percent of a month in the case of pay-  
9           ments made in accordance with subsection (a)(3).

10          “(e) REDUCED CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—For  
11 any month in which an individual fails to complete 120  
12 hours of training, the entitlement otherwise chargeable  
13 under subsection (d) shall be reduced in the same propor-  
14 tion as the monthly benefit payment payable is reduced  
15 under subsection (b).

16          “(f) PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP DEFINED.—In  
17 this section, the term ‘program of apprenticeship’ means  
18 a program of apprenticeship registered under the Act of  
19 August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Ap-  
20 prenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664; chapter 663; 29 U.S.C.  
21 50 et seq.).”.

22           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
23 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
24 by inserting after the item relating to section 3319  
25 the following new item:

“3319A. Apprenticeships and on-job training.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3313 of  
2 such title is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or section  
4 3319A of this title” after “subsections (e) and (f)”;  
5 and

6 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
7 lows:

8 “(b) APPROVED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.—A pro-  
9 gram of education is an approved program of education  
10 for purposes of this chapter if the program of education—

11 “(1) is—

12 “(A) offered by an institution of higher  
13 learning (as that term is defined in section  
14 3452(f) of this title); and

15 “(B) approved for purposes of chapter 30  
16 of this title (including approval by the State ap-  
17 proving agency concerned); or

18 “(2) in the case of an individual who is not  
19 serving on active duty, includes a program of ap-  
20 prenticeship or of other on-job training approved as  
21 provided in paragraph (1) or (2), as appropriate, of  
22 section 3687(a) of this title.”.

23 (c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 3002(3)(C)  
24 of such title is amended by striking “clause” and inserting  
25 “paragraph”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-  
3 ment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance  
4 Act of 2008 (title V of Public Law 110–252).

5 **SEC. 8. VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS GRANT PRO-**  
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
9 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of  
10 Labor and the Secretary of the Interior, establish a  
11 program to award grants to States to establish vet-  
12 erans conservation corps.

13 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a  
14 grant awarded to a State under this section in any  
15 year may not exceed \$250,000.

16 (b) VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS.—For pur-  
17 poses of this section, a veterans conservation corps is a  
18 corps that—

19 (1) is established by a State—

20 (A) within the veterans agency of the  
21 State; or

22 (B) in affiliation with the veterans agency  
23 of the State; and

1           (2) provides veterans with volunteer and em-  
2           ployment opportunities with respect to conservation  
3           projects for one or more of the following:

4                   (A) To restore natural habitat.

5                   (B) To maintain Federal, State, or local—

6                           (i) forest lands;

7                           (ii) parks and reserves; and

8                           (iii) other reservations, water, and  
9                   outdoor lands.

10                  (C) To maintain and improve urban and  
11                  suburban storm water management facilities  
12                  and other water management facilities.

13                  (D) To carry out hazardous materials and  
14                  spills response, energy efficiency and other envi-  
15                  ronmental maintenance, stewardship, and res-  
16                  toration projects.

17           (c) TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND CERTIFICATION.—

18                   (1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant  
19                  under this section to establish a veterans conserva-  
20                  tion corps shall ensure that such corps incorporates  
21                  into the volunteer and employment opportunities  
22                  provided by such corps training, education, and cer-  
23                  tification in environmental restoration and manage-  
24                  ment fields.

1           (2) CONSULTATION.—Such State shall ensure  
2           that, in incorporating training, education, and cer-  
3           tification into volunteer and employment opportuni-  
4           ties under paragraph (1), the veterans conservation  
5           corps consults with the following:

6                   (A) State and local workforce investment  
7           boards.

8                   (B) Local institutions of higher education,  
9           including community colleges.

10                  (C) Private schools.

11                  (D) State or local agencies, including State  
12           employment agencies and State forest services.

13                  (E) Labor organizations.

14                  (F) Business involved in the environmental  
15           industry.

16                  (G) Such other entities as the Secretary of  
17           Veterans Affairs considers appropriate.

18           (d) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—A State receiving a  
19           grant under this section to establish a veterans conserva-  
20           tion corps shall ensure that such corps partners with one-  
21           stop centers, State and local workforce investment boards,  
22           and other State agencies to assist veterans enrolled in  
23           such corps in obtaining employment in the fields of envi-  
24           ronmental restoration and management, and other related  
25           fields.



1 (e) SERVICES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant  
3 under this section to establish a veterans conserva-  
4 tion corps shall ensure that such corps—

5 (A) assesses of the veterans participating  
6 in the Corps the skills to help such veterans  
7 identify appropriate employment opportunities  
8 in their local communities that utilize the skills  
9 they developed while in the Armed Forces;

10 (B) assists with or provides referrals for  
11 obtaining benefits available to veterans;

12 (C) facilitates internships or job shadowing  
13 for veterans; and

14 (D) matches veterans with conservation  
15 projects that are aligned with the goals of the  
16 veterans.

17 (2) PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND LOCAL  
18 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.—In carrying out  
19 subparagraph (A) and (C) of paragraph (1), the  
20 State shall partner with State and local workforce  
21 investment boards.

22 (f) REPORTS.—Each State receiving a grant under  
23 this section shall submit to the Secretary and the appro-  
24 priate committees of Congress a report on the perform-

1 ance of the veterans conservation corps of such State, in-  
2 cluding the following:

3 (1) A description of how the grant amount was  
4 used.

5 (2) An assessment of the performance of such  
6 corps, including a description of the current veterans  
7 labor market in such State and the veterans labor  
8 market in such State in the previous year.

9 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
11 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
12 gress” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Appropriations and  
14 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
15 ate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Appropriations and  
17 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the  
18 House of Representatives.

19 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
20 term “institution of higher education” has the  
21 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher  
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

23 (3) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop  
24 center” means a one-stop center described in section

1 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29  
2 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

3 (4) STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVEST-  
4 MENT BOARDS.—The term “State and local work-  
5 force investment boards” means a State workforce  
6 investment board and a local workforce investment  
7 board as such terms are defined in section 101 of  
8 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.  
9 2801).

10 **SEC. 9. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN REFORMING HIGHER**  
11 **EDUCATION TO AFFORD ACADEMIC CREDIT**  
12 **FOR MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
15 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Assistant Sec-  
16 retary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and  
17 Training, establish a center of excellence for the  
18 purpose described in paragraph (2).

19 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose described in this  
20 paragraph is the support of research, development,  
21 planning, implementation, and evaluation of methods  
22 for educational institutions to afford academic credit  
23 for military experience and training to—

24 (A) veterans who were discharged or re-  
25 leased from service in the Armed Forces not

1 more than 48 months before applying for ad-  
2 mission to a program of education at such insti-  
3 tutions; or

4 (B) members of the reserve components of  
5 the Armed Forces.

6 (b) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, acting  
8 through the center of excellence, award grants to or  
9 enter into contracts with eligible institutions for the  
10 purpose described in subsection (a)(2).

11 (2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The  
12 Secretary may not award a grant or contract under  
13 this section in an amount that is less than  
14 \$2,000,000 or more than \$5,000,000.

15 (c) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—For purposes of this  
16 section, an eligible institution is any partnership that—

17 (1) meets such requirements as the Secretary  
18 may specify for purposes of this section; and

19 (2) consists of an institution of higher edu-  
20 cation and one or more of the following:

21 (A) A community college.

22 (B) A university teaching hospital.

23 (C) A military installation, including a fa-  
24 cility of the National Guard.

1 (D) A Department of Veterans Affairs  
2 medical center.

3 (E) A military medical treatment facility.

4 (d) SELECTION OF GRANT AND CONTRACT RECIPI-  
5 ENTS.—

6 (1) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seek-  
7 ing a grant or contract under this section shall sub-  
8 mit to the Secretary an application therefor in such  
9 form and in such manner as the Secretary considers  
10 appropriate.

11 (2) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—In  
12 selecting applicants for a grant or contract under  
13 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to ap-  
14 plicants who include as a partner an institution of  
15 higher education or other educational institution  
16 that—

17 (A) affords appropriate recognition to mili-  
18 tary experience and training in screening can-  
19 didates for admission to such institution;

20 (B) has an established practice of, or pro-  
21 poses to establish a practice of, affording appro-  
22 priate academic credit for military experience  
23 and training;

24 (C) if the applicant proposes to establish a  
25 practice as described in subparagraph (B), in-

1           cludes with the application submitted by the ap-  
2           plicant under paragraph (1) a review of such  
3           plan by a professional organization;

4           (D) has established a professional develop-  
5           ment and delivery system using evidence-based  
6           practices; or

7           (E) has demonstrated experience working  
8           with the Department of Defense or the Depart-  
9           ment of Veterans Affairs;

10          (3) STANDARDS, PROCEDURES, AND DISTRIBUTION  
11          CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall, by regulation,  
12          establish application and evaluation standards and  
13          procedures and such other forms, standards, defini-  
14          tions, and procedures as the Secretary determines to  
15          be appropriate for purposes of this section.

16          (e) USE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACT FUNDS.—Each  
17          eligible institution receiving a grant or contract under this  
18          section shall use the grant or contract for one or more  
19          of the following:

20               (1) To develop or implement a plan to modify  
21               programs of education and admissions programs at  
22               institutions of higher education to afford academic  
23               credit to veterans and members described in sub-  
24               section (a)(2).

1           (2) To develop standards for the identification  
2 of military experience and training in individuals ap-  
3 plying for enrollment at institutions of higher edu-  
4 cation.

5           (3) To train professors, educators, and instruc-  
6 tors at institutions of higher education on means of  
7 best teaching students at such institutions with mili-  
8 tary experience and training.

9           (4) To develop curriculum for institutions of  
10 higher education that are appropriately tailored to  
11 individuals with military experience and training.

12           (5) To develop admissions and recruitment  
13 guidelines for institutions of higher education to at-  
14 tract veterans and members described in subsection  
15 (a)(2) and afford them appropriate recognition for  
16 military experience and training in their admissions  
17 processes.

18           (6) To establish a program, method, or stand-  
19 ards to be utilized by institutions of higher edu-  
20 cation for assessing the education and training of  
21 veterans and members described in subsection (a)(2)  
22 during the pursuit of a program of education and at  
23 the completion of such program.

24           (f) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DE-  
25 FINED.—In this section, the term “institution of higher

1 education” has the meaning given such term in section  
2 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
3 1001(a)).

4 **SEC. 10. PUBLICATION OF DATA ON EMPLOYMENT OF CER-**  
5 **TAIN VETERANS BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.**

6 Section 4212(d) of title 38, United States Code, is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) The Secretary of Labor shall establish and  
9 maintain an Internet website that publicly discloses the  
10 information reported by contractors to the Secretary of  
11 Labor under paragraph (1).”.

12 **SEC. 11. MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PRO-**  
13 **GRAMS.**

14 (a) **MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PRO-**  
15 **GRAMS.**—Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of  
16 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end  
17 the following:

18 “(f) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MILITARY PATH-**  
19 **WAYS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Labor,  
21 after consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
22 fairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a  
23 demonstration program and carry out the program  
24 by making grants, on a competitive basis, to not  
25 more than 5 entities for demonstration projects. The



1 projects shall be designed to test the feasibility of  
2 methods of enabling transitioning military members  
3 to build on the technical skills learned in many mili-  
4 tary jobs, to enter the information technology work-  
5 force or continue their skills development in the in-  
6 formation technology disciplines to meet the demand  
7 for information technology workforce readiness in  
8 computer specialist and related information tech-  
9 nology jobs.

10 “(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In carrying  
11 out the program, the Secretary may examine the  
12 feasibility of methods such as the following:

13 “(A) Methods to improve the transitions,  
14 skills development, and employment of  
15 transitioning military members for and in infor-  
16 mation technology occupations with wages suffi-  
17 cient to support families.

18 “(B) Methods to align the information  
19 technology skills acquired in military occupa-  
20 tions with skills required in civilian information  
21 technology occupations in new, emerging, or  
22 viable industries, including aligning the skills—

23 “(i) using guidelines for assessments  
24 and credentials that employers value in the  
25 hiring process, and credentials that are in-

1 industry-recognized and approved by the  
2 Secretary; and

3 “(ii) by means that may include the  
4 use of a modified or enhanced Department  
5 of Defense transition program or a De-  
6 partment of Labor transition program,  
7 such as the program carried out under  
8 chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

9 “(C) Methods to ensure that military mem-  
10 bers receive education and training, including  
11 training through apprenticeship programs reg-  
12 istered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-  
13 monly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship  
14 Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50  
15 et seq.) (referred to individually in this sub-  
16 section as an ‘apprenticeship program’), and  
17 necessary support services, that are flexible,  
18 available (including available for deployed mili-  
19 tary members), adequate for individuals seeking  
20 to make the transition to civilian information  
21 technology occupations, and consistent with  
22 academic requirements of the institution in-  
23 volved.

24 “(D) Methods to enable military members  
25 to accelerate application for admission, accept-

1           ance, and graduation as students in computer  
2           science, engineering, and related disciplines at  
3           2-year and 4-year institutions of higher edu-  
4           cation, based on military credentials and experi-  
5           ence.

6           “(E) Methods to help military members  
7           obtain information technology credentials that  
8           are industry-recognized, are approved by the  
9           Secretary, and satisfy both military require-  
10          ments and civilian requirements, prior to re-  
11          lease of the members from the military.

12          “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
13          grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit  
14          an application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
15          manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
16          retary may require, including each of the following:

17                 “(A) An assurance that the entity agrees  
18                 that, in carrying out the project, the entity will  
19                 work in conjunction with a local board and  
20                 enter into a partnership that includes, as prin-  
21                 cipal partners, employers, labor organizations,  
22                 postsecondary education institutions including  
23                 institutions of higher education, veterans serv-  
24                 ice organizations, and other community organi-  
25                 zations.

1 “(B) Information—

2 “(i) demonstrating the capability of  
3 the entity in working with transitioning  
4 military members;

5 “(ii) demonstrating that the entity  
6 has a history of effective collaboration  
7 with—

8 “(I) the information technology  
9 industry or an industry with signifi-  
10 cant information technology jobs;

11 “(II) State boards or local  
12 boards, as appropriate; and

13 “(III) institutions of higher edu-  
14 cation and other information tech-  
15 nology educators or trainers; and

16 “(iii) demonstrating knowledge of  
17 training and best practices of the informa-  
18 tion technology industry.

19 “(C) An assurance that the entity will par-  
20 ticipate in the Secretary’s evaluation plan for  
21 the demonstration program, including partici-  
22 pating in required reporting for the plan.

23 “(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In order to select  
24 entities to receive grants for projects under this sub-  
25 section, the Secretary shall establish selection cri-

1       teria consistent with this subsection and shall ensure  
2       that the criteria give priority to each of the following  
3       types of entities:

4               “(A) Entities that demonstrate the ability  
5               to leverage public or private funds to sustain  
6               such a project after the grant period.

7               “(B) Entities that have relationships with  
8               institutions of higher education or with quali-  
9               fied community-based organizations that pro-  
10              vide training.

11              “(C) Entities that have relationships with  
12              employers, labor organizations, and other enti-  
13              ties that will provide earn and learn opportuni-  
14              ties to veterans.

15              “(D) Entities that have experience working  
16              with veterans and facilitating transitions from  
17              military to civilian work environments.

18              “(E) Entities that have experience design-  
19              ing contextualized learning programs that inte-  
20              grate basic adult education with skills training.

21              “(5) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL  
22              ASSISTANCE.—Using not more than 10 percent of  
23              the amount made available to carry out this sub-  
24              section, the Secretary may—

1           “(A) conduct an evaluation to determine  
2 promising methods of increasing the number of  
3 highly skilled transitioning military members  
4 who enter civilian information technology occu-  
5 pations and earn wages sufficient to support  
6 families; and

7           “(B) provide technical assistance to enti-  
8 ties receiving grants under this subsection, re-  
9 lating to the promising methods.

10          “(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare  
11 and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
12 gress and Federal agencies a final report on the  
13 findings and outcomes of the demonstration program  
14 carried out under this subsection. The Secretary  
15 shall broadly distribute the report through the vet-  
16 erans service organizations, State boards, and local  
17 boards.

18          “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19           “(A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The  
20 term ‘information technology’ means any equip-  
21 ment or interconnected system or subsystem of  
22 equipment—

23           “(i) used in the automatic acquisition,  
24 storage, analysis, evaluation, manipulation,  
25 management, movement, control, display,

1 switching, interchange, transmission, or re-  
2 ception of data or information; and

3 “(ii) includes the following:

4 “(I) Computers.

5 “(II) Ancillary equipment for  
6 computers (including imaging periph-  
7 erals, and input, output, and storage  
8 devices necessary for security and sur-  
9 veillance).

10 “(III) Peripheral equipment de-  
11 signed to be controlled by the central  
12 processing unit of a computer.

13 “(IV) Software.

14 “(V) Computer services (includ-  
15 ing support services).

16 “(VI) Other computer-related re-  
17 sources.

18 “(B) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
19 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-  
20 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
21 tion 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
22 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

23 “(C) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—The  
24 term ‘postsecondary education’ means—

1           “(i) a 4-year program of instruction,  
2           or not less than a 1-year program of in-  
3           struction that is acceptable for credit to-  
4           ward a baccalaureate degree or an asso-  
5           ciate degree, offered by an institution of  
6           higher education; or

7           “(ii) a certificate or apprenticeship  
8           program at the postsecondary level offered  
9           by an institution of higher education, a  
10          nonprofit educational institution, or a  
11          labor-management partnership.

12          “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
13          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
14          this subsection \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

15          “(g) NURSING, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ALLIED  
16          HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
17          MILITARY PATHWAYS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

18          “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor,  
19          after consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
20          fairs, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Health  
21          and Human Services, shall establish a demonstration  
22          program and carry out the program by making  
23          grants, on a competitive basis, to not more than 5  
24          entities for demonstration projects. The projects  
25          shall be designed to test the feasibility of methods



1 of enabling transitioning military members to build  
2 on the technical skills learned in many military jobs,  
3 to enter the nursing, public health and allied health  
4 professional, and physician assistant workforces or  
5 continue their skills development in disciplines re-  
6 lated to those workforces to meet the demand for  
7 nurses, public health and allied health professionals,  
8 and physician assistants.

9 “(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In carrying  
10 out the program, the Secretary may examine the  
11 feasibility of methods such as the following:

12 “(A) Methods to improve the transitions,  
13 skills development, and employment of  
14 transitioning military members for and in nurs-  
15 ing, public health and allied health professional,  
16 and physician assistant occupations with wages  
17 sufficient to support families.

18 “(B) Methods to align nursing, public  
19 health and allied health professional, and physi-  
20 cian assistant skills acquired in military occupa-  
21 tions with skills required in related civilian  
22 health occupations, including aligning the  
23 skills—

24 “(i) using guidelines for assessments  
25 and credentials that employers value in the

1 hiring process, and credentials that are in-  
2 dustry-recognized and approved by the  
3 Secretary; and

4 “(ii) by means that may include the  
5 use of a modified or enhanced Department  
6 of Defense transition program or a De-  
7 partment of Labor transition program,  
8 such as the program carried out under  
9 chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

10 “(C) Methods to ensure that military mem-  
11 bers receive education and training, including  
12 training through apprenticeship programs, and  
13 necessary support services, that are flexible,  
14 available (including available for deployed mili-  
15 tary members), adequate for individuals seeking  
16 to make the transition to civilian nursing, pub-  
17 lic health and allied health, and physician as-  
18 sistant occupations, and consistent with aca-  
19 demic requirements of the institution involved.

20 “(D) Methods to align education and train-  
21 ing programs, including apprenticeship pro-  
22 grams, for veterans in nursing, public health  
23 and allied health professional, and physician as-  
24 sistant occupations with education and training

1 programs for those occupations that are pro-  
2 vided for the public.

3 “(E) Methods to enable military members  
4 to accelerate application for admission, accept-  
5 ance, and graduation as students in nursing,  
6 public health and allied health, and physician  
7 assistant disciplines at 2-year and 4-year insti-  
8 tutions of higher education, based on military  
9 credentials and experience.

10 “(F) Methods to help military members ob-  
11 tain credentials related to those health care oc-  
12 cupations that are industry-recognized, are ap-  
13 proved by the Secretary, and satisfy both mili-  
14 tary requirements and civilian requirements,  
15 prior to release of the members from the mili-  
16 tary.

17 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
18 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit  
19 an application to the Secretary of such time, in such  
20 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
21 retary may require including each of the following:

22 “(A) An assurance that the entity agrees  
23 that, in carrying out the project, the entity will  
24 work in conjunction with a local board and  
25 enter into a partnership that includes, as prin-

1            ciproal partners, employers, labor organizations,  
2            postsecondary education institutions including  
3            institutions of higher education, veterans serv-  
4            ice organizations, and other community organi-  
5            zations.

6            “(B) Information—

7                    “(i) in demonstrating the capability of  
8                    the entity in working with transitioning  
9                    military members;

10                   “(ii) demonstrating that the entity  
11                   has a history of effective collaboration  
12                   with—

13                            “(I) health care employers;

14                            “(II) State boards or local  
15                            boards, as appropriate; and

16                            “(III) institutions of higher edu-  
17                            cation and other nursing, public  
18                            health and allied health professional,  
19                            and physician assistant educators or  
20                            trainers; and

21                            “(iii) demonstrating knowledge of  
22                            training and best practices of the health  
23                            care industry.

24            “(C) An assurance that the entity will par-  
25            ticipate in the Secretary’s evaluation plan for

1           the demonstration program, including partici-  
2           pating in required reporting for the plan.

3           “(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In order to select  
4           entities to receive grants for projects under this sub-  
5           section, the Secretary shall establish selection cri-  
6           teria consistent with this subsection and shall ensure  
7           that the criteria give priority to entities that dem-  
8           onstrate the ability to leverage of public or private  
9           funds to sustain such a project after the grant pe-  
10          riod.

11          “(5) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL  
12          ASSISTANCE.—Using not more than 10 percent of  
13          the amount made available to carry out this sub-  
14          section, the Secretary may—

15               “(A) conduct an evaluation to determine  
16               promising methods of increasing the number of  
17               highly skilled transitioning military members  
18               who enter civilian nursing, public health and al-  
19               lied health, or physician assistant occupations  
20               and earn wages sufficient to support families;  
21               and

22               “(B) provide technical assistance to enti-  
23               ties receiving grants under this subsection, re-  
24               lating to the promising methods.

1           “(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare  
2           and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
3           gress and Federal agencies a final report on the  
4           findings and outcomes of the demonstration program  
5           carried out under this subsection. The Secretary  
6           shall broadly distribute the report through the vet-  
7           erans service organizations, State boards, and local  
8           boards.

9           “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10           “(A) ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—  
11           The term ‘allied health professional’ means a  
12           health professional (other than a registered  
13           nurse or physician assistant) who—

14                   “(i) has received a certificate, an asso-  
15                   ciate degree, a baccalaureate degree, a  
16                   master’s degree, a doctoral degree, or  
17                   postbaccalaureate training, in a science re-  
18                   lating to health care;

19                   “(ii) shares in the responsibility for  
20                   the delivery of health care services or re-  
21                   lated services, including—

22                           “(I) services relating to the iden-  
23                           tification, evaluation, and prevention  
24                           of disease and disorders;

- 1 “(II) dietary and nutrition serv-  
2 ices;
- 3 “(III) health promotion services;
- 4 “(IV) rehabilitation services; or
- 5 “(V) health systems management  
6 services; and
- 7 “(iii) has not received—
- 8 “(I) a degree of doctor of medi-  
9 cine;
- 10 “(II) a degree of doctor of oste-  
11 opathy;
- 12 “(III) a degree of doctor of den-  
13 tistry or an equivalent degree;
- 14 “(IV) a degree of doctor of vet-  
15 erinary medicine or an equivalent de-  
16 gree;
- 17 “(V) a degree of doctor of optom-  
18 etry or an equivalent degree;
- 19 “(VI) a degree of doctor of  
20 podiatric medicine or an equivalent  
21 degree;
- 22 “(VII) a degree of bachelor of  
23 science in pharmacy or an equivalent  
24 degree;

1 “(VIII) a degree of doctor of  
2 pharmacy or an equivalent degree;

3 “(IX) a graduate degree in public  
4 health or an equivalent degree;

5 “(X) a degree of doctor of chiro-  
6 practic or an equivalent degree;

7 “(XI) a graduate degree in  
8 health administration or an equivalent  
9 degree;

10 “(XII) a doctoral degree in clin-  
11 ical psychology or an equivalent de-  
12 gree;

13 “(XIII) a degree in social work  
14 or an equivalent degree; or

15 “(XIV) a degree in counseling or  
16 an equivalent degree.

17 “(B) OTHER TERMS.—The terms ‘appren-  
18 ticeship program’, ‘institution of higher edu-  
19 cation’, and ‘postsecondary education’ have the  
20 meanings given the terms in subsection (f).

21 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
23 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 174(b)(1)  
25 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.



1 2919(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “(other than sub-  
 2 section (f) or (g) of section 171)” after “through 172”.

3 **SEC. 12. VETERANS ENERGY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRO-**  
 4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 168 of the Workforce In-  
 6 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2913) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
 8 section (c);

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 11 “and” at the end;

12 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
 13 period and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(D) activities described in subsection  
 16 (b).”; and

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
 18 lowing:

19 “(b) VETERANS ENERGY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT  
 20 PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To encourage the em-  
 23 ployment of eligible veterans in the energy in-  
 24 dustry, the Secretary shall carry out a Veterans  
 25 Energy-Related Employment Program as a

1 pilot program and as a program described in  
2 subsection (a).

3 “(B) GRANTS.—Under the pilot program,  
4 the Secretary shall award grants on a competi-  
5 tive basis to 3 States for the establishment and  
6 administration of State Energy-Related Em-  
7 ployment Programs. In administering such a  
8 program, the State shall make grants to energy  
9 employers and labor-management organizations  
10 that collectively provide covered training, on-  
11 the-job training, apprenticeship programs reg-  
12 istered as described in section 171(f)(2)(C) (re-  
13 ferred to individually in this subsection as an  
14 ‘apprenticeship program’), and certification  
15 classes to eligible veterans. Such a program  
16 may be referred to in this subsection as a ‘State  
17 program’.

18 “(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible  
19 to receive a grant under the pilot program, a State  
20 shall submit to the Secretary an application that in-  
21 cludes each of the following:

22 “(A) A proposal for the expenditure of  
23 grant funds to establish, and administer  
24 through a public-private partnership, a State  
25 Energy-Related Employment Program designed

1 to provide covered training, on-the-job training,  
2 apprenticeship programs, and certification  
3 classes to a significant number of eligible vet-  
4 erans and ensure lasting and sustainable em-  
5 ployment in well-paying jobs in the energy in-  
6 dustry.

7 “(B) Evidence that the State has—

8 “(i) a population of eligible veterans,  
9 of an appropriate size for the State pro-  
10 gram;

11 “(ii) a robust and diverse energy in-  
12 dustry; and

13 “(iii) the ability to carry out the State  
14 program described in the proposal under  
15 subparagraph (A).

16 “(C) Such other information and assur-  
17 ances as the Secretary may require.

18 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that is the re-  
19 cipient of a grant under this subsection shall use the  
20 grant funds for each of the following purposes:

21 “(A) Making grants to energy employers  
22 and labor-management organizations to reim-  
23 burse such employers and organizations for the  
24 cost of providing covered training, on-the-job

1 training, apprenticeship programs, and certifi-  
2 cation classes to eligible veterans.

3 “(B) Conducting outreach to inform en-  
4 ergy employers, labor-management organiza-  
5 tions, and veterans, including veterans in rural  
6 areas, of their eligibility or potential eligibility  
7 for participation in the State program.

8 “(4) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program,  
9 each State that receives a grant under this sub-  
10 section shall be subject to each of the following con-  
11 ditions:

12 “(A) REPAYMENT.—The State shall repay  
13 to the Secretary, on such date as shall be deter-  
14 mined by the Secretary, any amount received  
15 under the pilot program that is not used for the  
16 purposes described in paragraph (3).

17 “(B) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The  
18 State shall submit to the Secretary, at such  
19 times and containing such information as the  
20 Secretary shall require, reports on the use of  
21 the grant funds.

22 “(5) EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to  
23 receive a grant made by a State under the pilot pro-  
24 gram, an energy employer seeking the grant shall, or  
25 a labor-management organization seeking such a

1 grant shall (in coordination with the energy em-  
2 ployer involved)—

3 “(A) submit to the administrator of the  
4 State program an application that includes—

5 “(i) the rate of pay for each eligible  
6 veteran proposed to be served using grant  
7 funds;

8 “(ii) the average rate of pay for an in-  
9 dividual employed by the energy employer  
10 in a similar position who is not an eligible  
11 veteran; and

12 “(iii) such other information and as-  
13 surances as the administrator may require;  
14 and

15 “(B) agree to submit to the administrator,  
16 for each quarter, a report containing such infor-  
17 mation as the Secretary may specify.

18 “(6) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made  
19 available to an energy employer or labor-manage-  
20 ment organization through a grant under the pilot  
21 program may be used to provide services of any kind  
22 to a person who is not an eligible veteran.

23 “(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary  
24 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-  
25 gram. The Secretary shall submit the report to-

1       gether with the report required to be submitted an-  
2       nually under section 4107(c) of title 38, United  
3       States Code, and with respect to the same year as  
4       is covered by such report. The report on the pilot  
5       program shall include a detailed description of ac-  
6       tivities carried out under this subsection and an  
7       evaluation of the program.

8           “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING  
9       COSTS.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to  
10      the authorization of appropriations under paragraph  
11      (10), 2 percent shall be made available to the Sec-  
12      retary for administrative costs associated with imple-  
13      menting and evaluating the pilot program under this  
14      subsection and for preparing and submitting the re-  
15      port required under paragraph (7). The Secretary  
16      shall determine the appropriate maximum amount of  
17      each grant awarded under this subsection that may  
18      be used by the recipient for administrative and re-  
19      porting costs.

20           “(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21           “(A) COVERED TRAINING, ON-THE-JOB  
22      TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS, AND  
23      CERTIFICATION CLASSES.—The term ‘covered  
24      training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship  
25      programs, and certification classes’ means

1 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship  
2 programs, and certification classes that are—

3 “(i) designed to provide a veteran  
4 with skills that are particular to an energy  
5 industry and not directly transferable to  
6 employment in another industry; and

7 “(ii) approved as provided in para-  
8 graph (1) or (2), as appropriate, of sub-  
9 section (a) of section 3687 of title 38,  
10 United States Code.

11 “(B) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term ‘eli-  
12 gible veteran’ means a veteran described in sub-  
13 section (a) who is employed by an energy em-  
14 ployer and enrolled or participating in a covered  
15 training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship  
16 program, or certification class.

17 “(C) ENERGY EMPLOYER.—The term ‘en-  
18 ergy employer’ means an entity that employs in-  
19 dividuals in a trade or business in an energy in-  
20 dustry.

21 “(D) ENERGY INDUSTRY.—The term ‘en-  
22 ergy industry’ means any of the following in-  
23 dustries:

24 “(i) The energy-efficient building, con-  
25 struction, or retrofits industry.

1                   “(ii) The renewable electric power in-  
2                   dustry, including the wind and solar en-  
3                   ergy industries.

4                   “(iii) The biofuels industry.

5                   “(iv) The energy efficiency assessment  
6                   industry that serves the residential, com-  
7                   mercial, or industrial sector.

8                   “(v) The oil and natural gas industry.

9                   “(vi) The nuclear industry.

10                  “(10) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized  
11                  to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for  
12                  each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015, for the pur-  
13                  pose of carrying out the pilot program described in  
14                  this subsection.”.

15                  (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 174(a)(1)  
16                  of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.  
17                  2919(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “(other than section  
18                  168(b))” after “168”.

19       **SEC. 13. GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
20                               **PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR VETERANS.**

21                  Section 330J(c)(8) of the Public Health Service Act  
22                  (42 U.S.C. 254c–15(c)(8)) is amended by inserting before  
23                  the period the following: “, including, as provided by the  
24                  Secretary, may use funds to provide to military veterans  
25                  required coursework and training that take into account,



1 and are not duplicative of, previous medical coursework  
2 and training received when such veterans were active  
3 members of the Armed Forces, to enable such veterans  
4 to satisfy emergency medical services personnel certifi-  
5 cation requirements, as determined by the appropriate  
6 State regulatory entity”.

7 **SEC. 14. VETERANS TO WORK PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) VETERANS TO WORK PROGRAM.—Subchapter III  
9 of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
10 by inserting after section 2856 the following new section:

11 **“§ 2857. Veterans to Work pilot program**

12 “(a) PILOT PROGRAM; PURPOSES.—The Secretary of  
13 Defense shall carry out a pilot program (to be known as  
14 the ‘Veterans to Work pilot program’) to determine—

15 “(1) the maximum feasible extent to which ap-  
16 prentices may be employed to work on military con-  
17 struction projects designated under subsection (b);

18 “(2) the maximum feasible extent to which the  
19 apprentices so employed are veterans; and

20 “(3) the feasibility of expanding the employ-  
21 ment of apprentices to military construction projects  
22 in addition to those projects designated under sub-  
23 section (b).

24 “(b) DESIGNATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
25 PROJECTS FOR PILOT PROGRAM.—(1) For each of fiscal

1 years 2011 through 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall,  
2 in consultation with the Secretaries of the military depart-  
3 ments, designate for inclusion in the pilot program not less  
4 than 20 military construction projects (including unspec-  
5 ified minor military construction projects under section  
6 2805(a) of this title) that will be conducted in that fiscal  
7 year.

8 “(2) In designating military construction projects  
9 under this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall—

10 “(A) to the greatest extent possible, designate  
11 military construction projects that are located where  
12 there are veterans enrolled in qualified apprentice-  
13 ship programs or veterans who could be enrolled in  
14 qualified apprenticeship programs in a cost-effective,  
15 timely, and feasible manner;

16 “(B) ensure geographic diversity among the  
17 military construction projects designated; and

18 “(C) select projects to be carried out in the con-  
19 tinental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puer-  
20 to Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the  
21 United States Virgin Islands.

22 “(3) Unspecified minor military construction projects  
23 may not exceed 40 percent of the military construction  
24 projects designated under this subsection for a fiscal year.

1       “(c) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—Any agreement that  
2 the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military  
3 department enters into for a military construction project  
4 that is designated for inclusion in the pilot program shall  
5 ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, apprentices  
6 shall be employed on the project and that, to the maximum  
7 extent feasible, such apprentices shall be veterans.

8       “(d) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER  
9 TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

10           “(1) PARTICIPATION BY EACH CONTRACTOR RE-  
11 QUIRED.—Each contractor and subcontractor that  
12 seeks to provide construction services on military  
13 construction projects designated by the Secretary of  
14 Defense pursuant to subsection (b) shall submit ade-  
15 quate assurances with its bid or proposal that it par-  
16 ticipates in a qualified apprenticeship or other train-  
17 ing program for each craft or trade classification of  
18 worker that it intends to employ to perform work on  
19 the project.

20           “(2) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP OR OTHER  
21 TRAINING PROGRAM DEFINED.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the  
23 term ‘qualified apprenticeship or other training  
24 program’ means an apprenticeship or other  
25 training program that qualifies as an employee

1 welfare benefit plan, as defined in section 3(1)  
2 of the Employee Retirement Income Security  
3 Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(1)).

4 “(B) CERTIFICATION OF OTHER PRO-  
5 GRAMS IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES.—In the event  
6 that the Secretary of Labor certifies that a  
7 qualified apprenticeship or other training pro-  
8 gram (as defined in subparagraph (A)) for a  
9 craft or trade classification of workers that a  
10 prospective contractor or subcontractor intends  
11 to employ, is not operated in the locality where  
12 the project will be performed, an apprenticeship  
13 or other training program that is not an em-  
14 ployee welfare benefit plan (as defined in such  
15 section) may be certified by the Secretary as a  
16 qualified apprenticeship or other training pro-  
17 gram provided it is registered with the Office of  
18 Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor, or  
19 a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the  
20 Office of Apprenticeship for Federal purposes

21 “(e) REPORT.—(1) Not later than 150 days after the  
22 end of each fiscal year during which the pilot program  
23 is active, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Con-  
24 gress a report that includes the following:

1           “(A) The progress of military construction  
2 projects designated pursuant to subsection (b) and  
3 the role of apprentices in achieving that progress.

4           “(B) Any challenges, difficulties, or problems  
5 encountered in recruiting apprentices or in recruit-  
6 ing veterans to become apprentices.

7           “(C) Cost differentials in the designated mili-  
8 tary construction projects when compared with simi-  
9 lar projects completed contemporaneously, but not  
10 designated for the pilot program.

11           “(D) Evaluation of benefits derived from em-  
12 ploying apprentices, including the following:

13                   “(i) Workforce sustainability.

14                   “(ii) Workforce skills enhancement.

15                   “(iii) Increased short and long term cost-  
16 effectiveness.

17                   “(iv) Improved veteran employment in sus-  
18 tainable wage fields.

19           “(E) Any additional benefits derived from em-  
20 ploying apprentices and veteran apprentices.

21           “(F) Recommendations on how to more effec-  
22 tively employ apprentices in subsequent fiscal years.

23           “(G) Any other information the Secretary of  
24 Defense considers appropriate.

1 “(2) Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of  
2 Defense shall submit to Congress a report that—

3 “(A) analyzes the pilot program in terms of its  
4 effect on the sustainability of a workforce to meet  
5 the military construction needs of the Armed Forces;

6 “(B) studies overall improvements in veteran  
7 employment in sustainable wage fields or profes-  
8 sions; and

9 “(C) makes recommendations on the continu-  
10 ation, modification, or expansion of the pilot pro-  
11 gram on the basis of such factors as the Secretary  
12 of Defense determines appropriate, including the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(i) Workforce sustainability.

15 “(ii) Cost-effectiveness.

16 “(iii) Community development.

17 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘apprentice’ means an individual  
19 who is employed pursuant to and individually reg-  
20 istered in a ‘qualified apprenticeship or other train-  
21 ing program,’ as defined in subsection (d)(2)(A) or  
22 other apprenticeship or training programs recog-  
23 nized in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(B).

24 “(2) The term ‘State’ means any of the several  
25 States, the District of Columbia, or territories of

1 Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands,  
2 and the United States Virgin Islands.

3 “(3) The term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given  
4 such term under section 101(2) of title 38.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
6 at the beginning of subchapter III of chapter 169 of such  
7 title is amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
8 tion 2856 the following new item:

“2857. Veterans to Work pilot program.”.

9 **SEC. 15. REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVE-**  
10 **MENTS TO THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**  
11 **PROGRAM TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF**  
12 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VET-**  
13 **ERANS.**

14 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
16 of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, acting through the  
17 Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment  
18 and Training, shall jointly submit to the appropriate com-  
19 mittees of Congress a report setting forth recommenda-  
20 tions for improvements and enhancements of the Transi-  
21 tion Assistance Program (TAP) in order to better meet  
22 the needs of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

23 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection  
24 (a) shall include the following:

1           (1) A description and assessment of the extent  
2           to which the current Transition Assistance Program  
3           meets the needs of members of the Armed Forces  
4           and veterans.

5           (2) Recommendations for improvements and en-  
6           hancements of the Transition Assistance Program in  
7           order to ensure—

8                   (A) the comprehensiveness of the programs  
9                   and activities under the program; and

10                   (B) the consistency of the programs and  
11                   activities under the program across the Armed  
12                   Forces and among the military installations at  
13                   which the program is carried out.

14           (3) Recommendations for improvements and en-  
15           hancements of the Transition Assistance Program to  
16           ensure that the program meets the needs of veterans  
17           residing in localities in the vicinity of military instal-  
18           lations at which the program is carried out.

19           (4) A description and assessment of the pro-  
20           grams and activities offered to veterans who have  
21           completed participation in the Transition Assistance  
22           Program in order to further assist such veterans in  
23           their continuing transition from military life to civil-  
24           ian life, and recommendations for programs and ac-  
25           tivities to improve and enhance such assistance.



1           (5) An estimate of the cost of implementing the  
2           recommendations set forth pursuant to paragraphs  
3           (2), (3), and (4) during the five fiscal years begin-  
4           ning after the date of the submittal of the report.

5           (6) Such other matters as the Secretary of De-  
6           fense and the Secretary of Labor jointly consider ap-  
7           propriate.

8           (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
9           FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-  
10          tees of Congress” means—

11           (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
12          Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee  
13          on Appropriations of the Senate; and

14           (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
15          Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee  
16          on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

17 **SEC. 16. STUDY ON PROGRAM OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

18                           **MODELED ON NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOY-**  
19                           **MENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OF THE**  
20                           **WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD.**

21           (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days  
22          after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
23          of Defense shall complete a study of the National Guard  
24          Employment Enhancement Program of the Washington  
25          National Guard to assess the feasibility and advisability

1 of carrying out a program of assistance modeled after such  
2 program for all members of reserve components of the  
3 Armed Forces who transition from activity military service  
4 to civilian life.

5 (b) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required  
6 by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appro-  
7 priate committees of Congress a report that includes the  
8 following:

9 (1) The findings of the Secretary as a result of  
10 the study.

11 (2) The recommendation of the Secretary as to  
12 the feasibility and advisability of carrying out a pro-  
13 gram of assistance as described in subsection (a).

14 (3) If the Secretary determines that carrying  
15 out a program of assistance as described in sub-  
16 section (a) is feasible and advisable, an estimate of  
17 the cost to implement the program of assistance.

18 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-  
20 tees of Congress” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
22 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the Committee  
23 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

1           (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
2           Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee  
3           on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

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