

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 153

To promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, 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 “Supporting Veterans
5 in STEM Careers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

1 (2) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation”
2 means the National Science Foundation.

3 (3) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the mean-
4 ing given the term in section 2 of the America COM-
5 PETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
6 6621 note).

7 (4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
8 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
9 United States Code.

10 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING VETERANS IN STEM EDUCATION AND**
11 **COMPUTER SCIENCE.**

12 (a) SUPPORTING VETERAN INVOLVEMENT IN SCI-
13 ENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STEM EDUCATION.—The Di-
14 rector shall, through the research and education activities
15 of the Foundation, encourage veterans to study and pur-
16 sue careers in STEM and computer science, in coordina-
17 tion with other Federal agencies that serve veterans.

18 (b) VETERAN OUTREACH PLAN.—Not later than 180
19 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director
20 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and
21 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
22 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
23 Senate a plan for how the Foundation can enhance its out-
24 reach efforts to veterans. Such plan shall—

1 (1) report on the Foundation’s existing out-
2 reach activities;

3 (2) identify the best method for the Foundation
4 to leverage existing authorities and programs to fa-
5 cilitate and support veterans in STEM careers and
6 studies, including teaching programs; and

7 (3) include options for how the Foundation
8 could track veteran participation in research and
9 education programs of the Foundation, and describe
10 any barriers to collecting such information.

11 (c) NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD INDICATORS RE-
12 PORT.—The National Science Board shall provide in its
13 annual report on indicators of the state of science and en-
14 gineering in the United States any available and relevant
15 data on veterans in science and engineering careers or
16 education programs.

17 (d) ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
18 GRAM UPDATE.—Section 10 of the National Science
19 Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
20 1) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(5)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
25 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

2 “(C) higher education programs that serve
3 or support veterans.”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(F)—

5 (A) by striking “and students” and insert-
6 ing “, students”; and

7 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
8 the period at the end;

9 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “and vet-
10 erans” before the period at the end; and

11 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “and vet-
12 erans” before the period at the end.

13 (e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TEACHING
14 FELLOWSHIPS AND MASTER TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
15 UPDATE.—Section 10A(d) of the National Science Foun-
16 dation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
17 1a(d)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

19 (A) by striking “and individuals” and in-
20 serting “, individuals”; and

21 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
22 the period at the end; and

23 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by inserting “and vet-
24 erans” before the period at the end.

1 (f) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COMPUTER
2 AND NETWORK SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS
3 UPDATE.—Section 5(a) of the Cyber Security Research

4 and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and stu-
6 dents who are veterans” after “these fields”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
9 at the end;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
11 subparagraph (K); and

12 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the
13 following:

14 “(J) creating opportunities for veterans to
15 transition to careers in computer and network
16 security; and”.

17 (g) GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS IN COMPUTER AND
18 NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH UPDATE.—Section
19 5(c)(6)(C) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-
20 ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(c)(6)(C)) is amended by insert-
21 ing “or veterans” after “disciplines”.

22 (h) VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES STEM
23 EDUCATION INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
25 Science and Technology Policy shall establish an

1 interagency working group to coordinate Federal
2 programs and policies for transitioning and training
3 veterans and military spouses for STEM careers.

4 (2) DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY WORKING
5 GROUP.—The interagency working group established
6 under paragraph (1) shall—

7 (A) coordinate any Federal agency STEM
8 outreach activities and programs for veterans
9 and military spouses; and

10 (B) develop and facilitate the implementa-
11 tion by participating agencies of a strategic
12 plan, which shall—

13 (i) specify and prioritize short- and
14 long-term objectives;

15 (ii) specify the common metrics that
16 will be used by Federal agencies to assess
17 progress toward achieving such objectives;

18 (iii) identify barriers veterans face in
19 reentering the workforce, including a lack
20 of formal STEM education, career guid-
21 ance, and the process of transferring mili-
22 tary credits and skills to college credits;

23 (iv) identify barriers military spouses
24 face in establishing careers in STEM
25 fields;

1 (v) describe the approaches that each
2 participating agency will take to address
3 administratively the barriers described in
4 clauses (iii) and (iv); and

5 (vi) identify any barriers that require
6 Federal or State legislative or regulatory
7 changes in order to be addressed.

8 (3) DUTIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Of-
9 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall encour-
10 age and monitor the efforts of the Federal agencies
11 participating in the interagency working group to
12 ensure that the strategic plan required under para-
13 graph (2)(B) is developed and executed effectively
14 and that the objectives of such strategic plan are
15 met.

16 (4) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of
17 Science and Technology Policy shall—

18 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
19 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the
20 strategic plan required under paragraph (2)(B);
21 and

22 (B) include in the annual report required
23 by section 101(d) of the America COMPETES
24 Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
25 6621(d)) a description of any progress made in

1 carrying out the activities described in para-
2 graph (2)(B) of this subsection.

3 (5) SUNSET.—The interagency working group
4 established under paragraph (1) shall terminate on
5 the date that is 5 years after the date that it is es-
6 tablished.

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