

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 894

AN ACT

To identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Hire Veteran Health
3 Heroes Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF**
5 **THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE**
6 **OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT**
7 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE**
9 **ARMED FORCES.**

10 Section 207 of the VA Choice and Quality Employ-
11 ment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C. 7401
12 note) is amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 207. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS**
14 **OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH**
15 **CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EM-**
16 **PLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
17 **ERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM**
18 **THE ARMED FORCES.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
20 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall
21 establish a program to identify and refer members of the
22 Armed Forces with a health care occupation for employ-
23 ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs during the
24 separation of such members from the Armed Forces.

25 “(b) REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a member of the Armed
2 Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an
3 interest in working in a health care occupation with-
4 in the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Sec-
5 retary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to
6 a recruiter of the Department for consideration of
7 open positions in the specialty and geography of in-
8 terest to the member.

9 “(2) TIMING.—Any referral of a member of the
10 Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall
11 be made not earlier than one year before the separa-
12 tion of the member from the Armed Forces.

13 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of
14 a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or
15 referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be
16 construed as a guarantee of employment of such member
17 with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and
19 two years after the date of the enactment of the Hire Vet-
20 eran Health Heroes Act of 2021, the Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees
22 of Congress a report on the program established under
23 subsection (a).

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress’ means—

4 “(A) the Committee on Armed Services
5 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
6 Senate; and

7 “(B) the Committee on Armed Services
8 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
9 House of Representatives.

10 “(2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term
11 ‘health care occupation’ means an occupation for
12 which an individual may be appointed for employ-
13 ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under
14 section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.”.

Passed the Senate July 21, 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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