

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9997

To establish a pilot program to address critical workforce integration and national security imperatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. KILEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a pilot program to address critical workforce integration and national security imperatives.

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 “National Guard for
5 National Service Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDRESS CRITICAL WORK-**
2 **FORCE INTEGRATION AND NATIONAL SECU-**
3 **RITY IMPERATIVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—After the conclusion of the study
5 under subsection (b), the Chief of the National Guard Bu-
6 reau and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation
7 for National and Community Service shall establish a pilot
8 program, informed by the study under subsection (b), to
9 address critical workforce integration and national secu-
10 rity imperatives through activities conducted by the Na-
11 tional Guard Bureau and under the national service laws,
12 which shall include the following:

13 (1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.—
14 Activities to proactively safeguard essential systems
15 and assets that are vital for the functioning of the
16 society and economy of the United States, including
17 systems of transportation, energy, communications,
18 and water management.

19 (2) CYBERSECURITY CAPACITY-BUILDING.—Ac-
20 tivities related to the training and deployment of
21 participants and members of the National Guard to
22 assist local and Tribal governments, elementary and
23 secondary schools, institutions of higher education,
24 and nonprofits in strengthening their security proto-
25 cols and resilience.

1 (3) DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNITY
2 RESILIENCE.—Activities to expand efforts in com-
3 munity preparedness and resilience to reduce risks
4 to civilian life and strategic infrastructure due to
5 major disasters and ensure their ability to be resil-
6 ient should an event occur.

7 (4) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND FINAN-
8 CIAL SECURITY.—Activities to establish a nationwide
9 employment and training pipeline that—

10 (A) connects part-time National Guard and
11 Reserve service members with structured career
12 pathways through programs established under
13 the national service laws;

14 (B) addresses economic insecurity; and

15 (C) ensures workforce stability.

16 (b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 1 year
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the
18 National Guard Bureau and the Chief Executive Officer
19 of the Corporation for National and Community Service
20 shall jointly conduct a feasibility study regarding—

21 (1) the actions and procedural modifications
22 that would be necessary to develop a dedicated na-
23 tionwide employment and training pipeline for mem-
24 bers of a reserve component to participate in pro-
25 grams carried out under the national service laws;

1 (2) modifications necessary to the terms of
2 service for a participant under the national service
3 laws to accommodate training schedules and deploy-
4 ment of military service members;

5 (3) quantifiable benefits anticipated with re-
6 spect to the establishment of such a pipeline;

7 (4) financial and administrative costs of the im-
8 plementation of the pilot program under subsection
9 (a);

10 (5) the percentage of members of a reserve
11 component who lack access to stable, full-time em-
12 ployment;

13 (6) the expected levels of participation by mili-
14 tary service members seeking employment and train-
15 ing opportunities in programs carried out under the
16 national service laws;

17 (7) the framework for the design and
18 operationalization of such a pipeline; and

19 (8) whether a dedicated nationwide employment
20 and training pipeline to participation in programs
21 carried out under the national service laws is an ef-
22 fective tool for enhancing employment and upskilling
23 opportunities for military spouses and dependents.

24 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

1 (1) NATIONAL GUARD.—The term “national
2 guard” has the meaning given such term in section
3 101 of title 32, United States Code.

4 (2) NATIONAL SERVICE LAWS.—The term “na-
5 tional service laws” has the meaning given such
6 term in section 101 of the National and Community
7 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).

8 (3) PARTICIPANT.—The term “participant” has
9 the meaning given such term in section 101 of the
10 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
11 U.S.C. 12511).

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