

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4611

To provide for alignment of the Job Corps with the defense industrial base,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2026

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for alignment of the Job Corps with the defense
industrial base, 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 “Job Corps Ship-
5 building-Defense Industrial Base Pipeline Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. ALIGNMENT OF JOB CORPS WITH THE DEFENSE IN-** 7 **DUSTRIAL BASE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Imperative for In-
9 dustrial Skills program of the Department of Defense (or
10 a successor program) shall maximize the use of and ex-

1 pand on the activities of Job Corps centers and registered
2 apprenticeship programs to train the skilled industrial
3 workers that are needed in the defense industrial base.

4 (b) REFERRAL OF MILITARY RECRUITS TO JOB
5 CORPS.—Military recruiters shall make each military re-
6 cruit who is ineligible to enlist in the military as a result
7 of the requirements of section 520 of title 10, United
8 States Code, aware of the opportunity to enroll in Job
9 Corps and registered apprenticeship programs in order to
10 meet the standards for enlistment or learn skills that can
11 contribute to the defense industrial base.

12 (c) JOB CORPS TRADE REALIGNMENT.—In order to
13 address shortages of skilled industrial workers in the de-
14 fense industrial base, the Secretary of Defense may,
15 through the National Imperative for Industrial Skills pro-
16 gram (or a successor program) and grants to Job Corps
17 center operators as provided in accordance with section
18 158(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
19 (29 U.S.C. 3208(f)), support the change of trades offered
20 at a Job Corps center, including at a Job Corps transition
21 hub at an existing center or at a new site in close prox-
22 imity to a shipyard or other defense industrial base sup-
23 pliers, to align with the needs of the defense industrial
24 base, including through investments in curricula develop-
25 ment, equipment, and facilities.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

2 (1) ENROLLEE; JOB CORPS; JOB CORPS CEN-
 3 TER.—The terms “enrollee”, “Job Corps”, and “Job
 4 Corps center” have the meanings given such terms
 5 in section 142 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
 6 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192).

7 (2) JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATOR.—The term
 8 “Job Corps center operator” has the meaning given
 9 the term “operator” in such section of such Act.

10 (3) JOB CORPS TRANSITION HUB.—The term
 11 “Job Corps transition hub” means an advanced ca-
 12 reer training program under section 148 of the
 13 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
 14 U.S.C. 3198) that facilitates the onboarding and re-
 15 tention of enrollees into the defense industrial base.

16 (4) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
 17 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
 18 means an apprenticeship program that is registered
 19 under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known
 20 as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664,
 21 chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

22 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF SHIPBUILDING SPECIAL INCENTIVE**
 23 **TO THE JOB CORPS.**

24 Section 8696(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code,
 25 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(G) The Job Corps program established
 2 under section 143 of the Workforce Innovation
 3 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3193) or an
 4 individual Job Corps center operator as defined
 5 in section 142 of the Workforce Innovation and
 6 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192).”.

7 **SEC. 4. JOB CORPS CONFORMING REFORMS.**

8 (a) **SUCCESS IN MILITARY RECRUITMENT AS A**
 9 **GRADUATE OF JOB CORPS.**—Section 142(5) of the Work-
 10 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
 11 3192(5)) is amended by inserting “enlisted in the military
 12 with a score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test that
 13 is above the thirty-first percentile,” before “or completed”.

14 (b) **GRANTS TO JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—Section
 15 158(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 16 (29 U.S.C. 3208(f)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking the heading and inserting “EX-
 18 TERNAL FUNDING”;

19 (2) by striking “The Secretary may accept on
 20 behalf of the Job Corps or individual Job Corps cen-
 21 ters charitable donations of cash” and inserting the
 22 following:

23 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary (or the Sec-
 24 retary of Agriculture, as appropriate), on behalf of
 25 the Job Corps, or a Job Corps center operator, on

1 behalf of such center, may accept grants and chari-
2 table donations of cash”;

3 (3) by inserting “grants and” before “donations
4 are”;

5 (4) by striking “available for appropriate use”
6 and inserting “used exclusively”; and

7 (5) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
9 standing sections 501(b) and 522 of title 40, United
10 States Code, any property acquired by a Job Corps
11 center shall be directly transferred, on a nonreim-
12 bursable basis, to the Secretary.

13 “(3) PROHIBITION OF OFFSET USING EXTER-
14 NAL FUNDING.—An operator that accepts a grant or
15 charitable donation under paragraph (1) may not
16 use the grant or charitable donation to fulfill the
17 cost of any obligation imposed on the operator under
18 an agreement under section 147.

19 “(4) PROHIBITION ON RESTRICTIONS FOR JOB
20 CORPS PLACEMENT.—A grant or charitable donation
21 under paragraph (1) may not include terms that re-
22 strict the placement or employment options of an en-
23 rollee or graduate.

24 “(5) PUBLIC REPORTING.— The Secretary shall
25 publicly disclose on annual basis a list of grants and

1 charitable donations received under paragraph (1),
2 which shall include the amount and source of each
3 grant or charitable donation and the Job Corps cen-
4 ter that was designated as the beneficiary of each
5 grant or charitable donation.”.

6 (c) LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REALIGN TRADES.—Sec-
7 tion 151 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
8 (29 U.S.C. 3201) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(d) LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the limitations
11 of the budget approved by the Secretary for a Job Corps
12 center, the operator of a Job Corps center shall have the
13 authority, without prior approval from the Secretary, to—

14 “(1) hire staff and provide staff professional de-
15 velopment;

16 “(2) set terms and enter into agreements with
17 Federal, State, or local educational partners, such as
18 secondary schools, institutions of higher education,
19 child development centers, units of Junior Reserve
20 Officers’ Training Corps programs established under
21 section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, or em-
22 ployers; and

23 “(3) engage with and educate stakeholders (in-
24 cluding eligible applicants for the Job Corps) about

1 Job Corps operations, selection procedures, and ac-
2 tivities.”.

3 (d) STREAMLINED ENROLLMENT OF VETERANS AND
4 MILITARY RECRUITS INTO THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL
5 BASE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section
7 144 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
8 Act (29 U.S.C. 3194) is amended—

9 (A) in the heading, by inserting “AND
10 CERTAIN OTHER ARMED FORCES MEMBERS”
11 after “VETERANS”; and

12 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
13 by inserting “or a member of the Armed Forces
14 eligible for pre-separation counseling of the
15 Transition Assistance Program under section
16 1142 of title 10, United States Code,” after “a
17 veteran”.

18 (2) BACKGROUND CHECK EXEMPTION.—Section
19 145(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
20 Act (29 U.S.C. 3195(b)) is amended—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by inserting “ex-
22 cept with respect to an individual described in
23 paragraph (4),” before “the individual”; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) INDIVIDUALS EXEMPTED FROM BACK-
2 GROUND CHECK.—An individual described in this
3 paragraph is—

4 “(A) an individual who is—

5 “(i)(I) a member of the Armed Forces
6 eligible for pre-separation counseling of the
7 Transition Assistance Program under sec-
8 tion 1142 of title 10, United States Code;
9 or

10 “(II) a veteran who left the Armed
11 Forces not more than 90 days before the
12 date on which the veteran applies to enroll
13 in the Job Corps; and

14 “(ii) not ineligible for retired pay as
15 provided by section 12740 of title 10,
16 United States Code; or

17 “(B) a military recruit who—

18 “(i) is ineligible to enlist in the mili-
19 tary as a result of the requirements of sec-
20 tion 520 of title 10, United States Code;
21 and

22 “(ii) not more than 90 days before the
23 date on which the recruit applies to enroll

1 in the Job Corps, passed a background
2 check as part of the enlistment process.”.

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