

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5226

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Appalachian Regional Commission to carry out a program of outreach for veterans who reside in Appalachia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2010

Mr. WILSON of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Appalachian Regional Commission to carry out a program of outreach for veterans who reside in Appalachia, 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 “Appalachian Veterans
5 Outreach Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH FOR VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN APPA-**
2 **LACHIA.**

3 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs and the Appalachian Regional Commission
5 shall jointly carry out a program of outreach to veterans
6 who reside in the Appalachian region for the purpose de-
7 scribed in subsection (b).

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose described in this sub-
9 section is to increase the following:

10 (1) The access to and use by veterans of Fed-
11 eral, State, and local programs providing compensa-
12 tion and other benefits for service in the Armed
13 Forces.

14 (2) Awareness of such programs, and their eli-
15 gibility for such programs, by veterans who reside in
16 the Appalachian region.

17 (c) PROJECTS.—

18 (1) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In
19 carrying out the program required by subsection (a),
20 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into
21 agreements with other Federal and State agencies to
22 carry out projects under the jurisdiction of such
23 agencies to further the purpose described in sub-
24 section (b).

25 (2) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.—In
26 carrying out the program required by subsection (a),

1 the Appalachian Regional Commission may provide
2 technical assistance, award grants, enter into con-
3 tracts, or otherwise provide amounts to persons or
4 entities in the Appalachian region for projects and
5 activities that—

6 (A) increase outreach with respect to,
7 awareness of, and use by veterans of programs
8 described in subsection (b)(1);

9 (B) provide incentives for State and local
10 governments and veterans service organizations
11 to assist veterans in utilizing facilities and re-
12 sources available to veterans through the De-
13 partment of Veterans Affairs;

14 (C) provide incentives for State and local
15 governments and veterans service organizations
16 to assist veterans in utilizing resources available
17 through government programs and veterans
18 service organizations for veterans;

19 (D) educate communities and State and
20 local governments about the employment rights
21 of veterans, including the employment and re-
22 employment of members of the uniformed serv-
23 ices under chapter 43 of title 38, United States
24 Code;

1 (E) provide technical assistance to busi-
2 nesses owned by veterans; and

3 (F) encourage and assist nonprofit organi-
4 zations, businesses, and institutions of higher
5 education to carry out programs of assistance
6 designed for veterans.

7 (d) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
8 ANCE.—In carrying out the program required by sub-
9 section (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Ap-
10 palachian Regional Commission may provide, or may enter
11 into contracts with public or private organizations to pro-
12 vide, information, advice, and technical assistance to non-
13 profit organizations that provide services to communities
14 in the Appalachian region in order to increase the number
15 of veterans receiving such services in the Appalachian re-
16 gion.

17 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) The term “Appalachian region” has the
19 meaning given the term in section 14102(a) of title
20 40, United States Code.

21 (2) The term “veterans service organization”
22 means any organization recognized by the Secretary
23 of Veterans Affairs for the representation of vet-

- 1 erans under section 5902 of title 38, United States
- 2 Code.

