

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 929

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of training to provide eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of training to provide eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market, 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. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRANSI-**  
4 **TION (MOST) PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of  
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
7 section 3687 the following new section:

1 **“§ 3687A. Military occupational specialty transition**  
2 **(MOST) program**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT; ELIGIBILITY.—(1) Subject to  
4 the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the  
5 Secretary shall carry out a program of training to provide  
6 eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market.

7 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible  
8 veteran’ means any veteran—

9 “(A) whose military occupational specialty at  
10 the time of discharge is determined by the Secretary  
11 to have limited transferability to the civilian job  
12 market;

13 “(B) who is not otherwise eligible for education  
14 or training services under this title;

15 “(C) who has not acquired a marketable skill  
16 since leaving military service;

17 “(D) who was discharged under conditions not  
18 less than general under honorable conditions; and

19 “(E)(i) who has been unemployed for at least  
20 90 days during the 180-day period preceding the  
21 date of application for the program established  
22 under this section; or

23 “(ii) the maximum hourly rate of pay of such  
24 veteran during such 180-day period is not more than  
25 150 percent of the Federal minimum wage.

1       “(b) MOST PROGRAM.—The program established  
2 under this section shall provide for payments to employers  
3 who provide for eligible veterans a program of apprentice-  
4 ship or on-the-job training if—

5               “(1) such program is approved as provided in  
6 paragraph (1) or (2) of section 3687(a) of this title;

7               “(2) the rate of pay for veterans participating  
8 in the program is not less than the rate of pay for  
9 nonveterans in similar jobs; and

10              “(3) the Secretary reasonably expects that—

11                      “(A) the veteran will be qualified for em-  
12 ployment in that field upon completion of train-  
13 ing; and

14                      “(B) the employer providing the program  
15 will hire the veteran at the completion of train-  
16 ing.

17       “(c) PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYERS.—(1) Subject to the  
18 availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Sec-  
19 retary shall enter into contracts with employers to provide  
20 programs of apprenticeship or on-the-job training that  
21 meet the requirements of this section. Each such contract  
22 shall provide for the payment of the amounts described  
23 in subsection (b) to employers whose programs meet such  
24 requirements.

1       “(2) The amount paid under this section with respect  
2 to any eligible veteran for any period shall be 50 percent  
3 of the wages paid by the employer to such veteran for such  
4 period. Wages shall be calculated on an hourly basis.

5       “(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

6               “(i) the amount paid under this section with re-  
7 spect to a veteran participating in the program es-  
8 tablished under this section may not exceed \$20,000  
9 in the aggregate and \$1,666.67 per month; and

10              “(ii) such payments may only be made during  
11 the first 12 months of such veteran’s participation  
12 in the program.

13       “(B) In the case of a veteran participating in the pro-  
14 gram on a less than full-time basis, the Secretary may  
15 extend the number of months of payments under subpara-  
16 graph (A) and proportionally adjust the amount of such  
17 payments, but the maximum amount paid with respect to  
18 a veteran may not exceed the maximum amount of  
19 \$20,000 and the maximum amount of such payments may  
20 not exceed 24 months.

21       “(4) Payments under this section shall be made on  
22 a quarterly basis.

23       “(5) Each employer providing a program of appren-  
24 ticeship or on-the-job training pursuant to this section  
25 shall submit to the Secretary on a quarterly basis a report

1 certifying the wages paid to eligible veterans under such  
2 program (which shall be certified by the veteran as being  
3 correct) and containing such other information as the Sec-  
4 retary may specify. Such report shall be submitted in the  
5 form and manner required by the Secretary.

6 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7 is authorized to be appropriated \$60,000,000 for each of  
8 fiscal years 2009 through 2018 to carry out this section.

9 “(e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall include a de-  
10 tailed description of activities carried out under this sec-  
11 tion in the annual report prepared by the Veterans Bene-  
12 fits Administration.

13 “(f) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—The Department  
14 shall have a separate line item in budget proposals of the  
15 Department for funds to be appropriated to carry out this  
16 section.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18 for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item  
19 relating to section 3687 the following new item:

“3687A. Military occupational specialty transition (MOST) program.”.

20 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Subsection  
21 (a)(1) of section 3034 of such title is amended by striking  
22 “and 3687” and inserting “3687, and 3687A”.

23 (2) Subsections (a)(1) and (c) of section 3241 of such  
24 title are each amended by striking “section 3687” and in-  
25 serting “sections 3687 and 3687A”.

1       (3) Subsection (d)(1) of section 3672 of such title is  
2 amended by striking “and 3687” and inserting “3687,  
3 and 3687A”.

4       (4) Paragraph (3) of section 4102A(b) of such title  
5 is amended by striking “section 3687” and inserting “sec-  
6 tion 3687 or 3687A”.

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